TABLE 5.1 Covariance Matrices and Means for Measured Variables for the Day-Care Group, Home-Care Group, and Total Sample—Dataset 1

Measured variables	Covariance Matrix						Means
	V1	**V2**	**V3**	**V4**	**V5**	**V6**	
Group 1—Day-Care Group (N_1 = 200)							
V1	138.00						50.40
V2	45.58	80.49					79.60
V3	35.19	23.56	56.34				98.88
V4	45.13	32.00	16.64	232.17			74.06
V5	35.33	10.49	10.56	79.74	149.16		49.12
V6	73.34	28.73	33.21	117.30	79.90	324.36	120.10
Group 2—Home-Care Group (N_2 = 200)							
V1	127.61						53.70
V2	58.49	76.81					81.32
V3	29.09	19.72	54.29				101.82
V4	45.84	28.94	31.82	223.09			77.69
V5	20.33	13.27	5.81	62.25	135.72		51.62
V6	50.64	55.45	30.15	126.74	62.16	337.37	123.37

Total—Combined for Day-Care and Home-Care Groups (N = 400)

	Covariance Matrix						
	V1	**V2**	**V3**	**V4**	**V5**	**V6**	**V7**
V1	135.19						
V2	53.33	79.21					
V3	34.48	22.86	57.33				
V4	48.37	31.96	26.83	230.35			
V5	29.82	12.93	9.99	73.08	143.64		
V6	64.53	43.40	34.00	124.69	72.90	332.72	
V7	.83	.43	.73	.91	.62	.82	.25

Note: V1: Vocabulary; V2: Letters/Numbers; V3: Classification; V4: Self-Control; V5: Adult interaction; V6: Peer interaction; V7: Day (0) versus home (1) care.

In your first SEM course, you might not have been exposed to path diagrams that include arrows emanating from a triangle with a 1 inside, as shown in Figure 5.1. The triangle represents a unit predictor, which is equal to 1 for all individuals. The unit predictor has no variance and therefore is sometimes called a *pseudo-variable*. Arrows from the unit predictor can be directed toward factors or measures, and the model parameters associated with these arrows are intercepts (i.e., additive constants) in a prediction equation. The symbol for an intercept is an *a;* the subscript of *a* indicates the factor or measure with which it is associated.

Intercepts allow us to reproduce the means of the measured variables in models. As we will soon illustrate, these means must be perfectly reproduced