Alternate Forms Reliability

*Alternate forms reliability* refers to the consistency of scores obtained from the same respondent rating the same person on two different forms. For the SPM‑2, these studies were conducted with individuals whose ages were within the overlapping year between two age levels (such as a 5-year-old who was rated with both the Preschool Home and Child Home forms). This study consisted of 54 participants (infant through adult) from the standardization sample who were assessed with each alternate form. Specifically: nine- and ten-month-olds were assessed with both the Infant and Toddler forms; two-year-olds were assessed with the Toddler and Preschool Home forms; five-year-olds were assessed with the Preschool and Child Home forms; 12-year-olds were assessed with the Child and Adolescent Home forms; and 21-year-olds were assessed with the Adolescent and Adult Self‑Report forms. In addition, five-year-olds were assessed with the Preschool and Child School forms, and 12-year-olds were assessed with the Child and Adolescent School forms.

Alternate forms studies emphasize the equivalency of parallel forms intended for different age ranges. As expected, the pairs of parallel forms across all age levels showed a strong median correlation of .69 for the 10‑item scales, and.84 for the 60‑item Sensory Total. These studies suggest that in clinical applications, use of either the “younger” or “older” forms with individuals whose ages are within the overlapping ranges of different form levels will produce roughly equivalent results. Therefore, determining which form to use when an examinee’s age falls within the range of two forms is primarily a clinical decision (see Chapter 2). For more information about selecting the appropriate form, see the Chapter 2 section *Administration Instructions by Age Level*.