

Appendix B - Score on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - Revised

The Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - Revised (PPVT-R) was administered to the NLSCY children in the 4 to 6 age group in cycle 3.

The PPVT-R was designed to measure receptive or hearing vocabulary and in fact can be used for any group, up to adult. The test was developed by Lloyd and Leota Dunn, at the University of Hawaii, and has been widely used in large-scale data collections as well as assessments. A French adaptation of the PPVT-R was developed by the test's authors and Claudia M. Thériault at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N. B. The French test is called the Échelle de vocabulaire en images Peabody (EVIP).

For the NLSCY, the PPVT-R was used to measure school readiness for children in the 4 to 5 age group. Verbal parental consent was required before the test was administered. If permission was granted, the interviewer then administered the test to the child in the home. The child looked at pictures on an easel and identified the picture which matched the word the interviewer read out.

A total raw score was calculated for each child who completed the PPVT-R by computing correct responses. A standardized score was also assigned to each child. Standard scores allow for comparisons of scores to be made across age groups. Obviously a 5 year-old would be expected to perform better on the PPVT-R than a 4 year-old and thus have a higher score. The standard score takes account of the child's age.

Standard scores for a test are usually developed based on the distribution of scores obtained by some defined sample of individuals. This is called the norm sample. For the PPVT-R individuals in the norm sample were assigned standard scores so the mean of the standard scores was 100 and the standard deviation was 15 for all age groupings. This standardization was done by 2 month age groups.

The PPVT-R norm sample was based on a sample selected in the United States. It was decided that it would be appropriate to develop standardized scores for the Canadian context. Therefore, in collaboration with the developers of the test, Canadian norms have been developed for children in the 4 to 5 age group. It should be noted that the standardization was done separately for the PPVT-R and EVIP. Therefore when global comparisons are made between children who completed the test in English vs. French, by definition performance should be equivalent.

Reliability measures for the PPVT have been calculated based on the American norm sample (Dunn and Dunn, 1981).