,Dear Jim,

I recently received (indirectly through a colleague at U. Miami) a request from your Center for a copy of the Adjustment Scales for Preschool Intervention (ASPI) as used in the Head Start Impact Study. A copy is attached.

That same request also indicated that you were applying the ASPI in a comparison study of Head Start, ABC and Perry as based on HSIS data. I thought it important to tell you that, because the HSIS construct dimensions and scoring procedures were derived from a Philadelphia Head Start sample only, and not the HSIS sample, the construct dimensions and scores have no known validity generalization to national Head Start, to non-Head Start prekindergarten, to kindergarten, or to first grade.

This problem has been ameliorated over the past two years by primary analyses of the HSIS ASPI data at the item level. A series of papers presents results; the first paper just published (it is attached), a second entering final review (manuscript attached, but please do not distribute), and others to follow.

In a nutshell, we've produced longitudinally stable and valid construct dimensions, vertical equating through IRT, and Bayesian score estimates. Because the instrument is no longer limited to preschool and is now calibrated for longitudinal applications, it has been renamed the Adjustment Scales for Early Transition in Schooling (ASETS).

The published article established the phenotype dimensions of Aggression, Attention Seeking (and their second-order composite, Overactivity), Reticence/Withdrawal, and Low Energy (and their second-order composite, Underactivity). The manuscript establishes the situtype dimensions of Peer Context Problems, Learning Context Problems, and Teacher Context Problems. The phenotypes are used to identify the nature (the what) of any problem and the situtypes are used to identify the where, when and with whom (motivation) of the problem.

If you look at the multilevel growth trajectories toward the latter part of each paper, you will see how the dimensions operate when broken out by blocking variables. We could easily do this by Head Start vs. Perry, etc.

I am willing to collaborate with you if there is an interest.

Paul

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