Speed DIAL-4:
You Can Determine What a Young Child Needs to Succeed

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Objectives

• Describe the developmental abilities that predict early learning outcomes.

• Describe the components of the Speed DIAL-4.

• Describe how the Speed DIAL-4 can help early childhood professionals identify children’s strengths and needs.
Essential Foundational Skills

Success in Kindergarten requires

- pre-academic skills,
- social-emotional, and
- behavioral competencies.
Identifying Young Children at Risk: Top 10 Predictors

- Extremely restless and easily distracted.
- Difficulties following directions or routines.
- Difficulties interacting with peers.
- Clumsy (gross and/or fine motor skills.)
- Poor articulation.

- Slow vocabulary growth.
- Talked late compared to peers.
- Poor phonological awareness skills.
- Poor letter-naming ability.
- Difficulty naming known objects quickly.
Behavioral Competence

...higher levels of self-control and lower levels of acting out among young children predict their academic performance in first grade, over and above their cognitive skills and family backgrounds.

Raver & Knitzer, 2002
Oral Language: Critical to Reading

Reading and writing float on a sea of talk.

J. Britton (Quoted by Lance Gentile)
Children learn word meanings through conversations with other people.

- They often hear adults repeat words and use new and interesting words.
- The more words they hear, the more word meanings they learn.

(National Reading Panel Report, 2000)
Language Differences

At 11-18 months of age

✓ Children in poverty—heard 250,000 words per year
✓ Children in homes of professionals—heard 4 million words per year

Hart & Risley (2002)
Use This Assessment to Determine the Strengths and Needs of Children Ages 2:6 Through 5:11.
DIAL-4 Quick Facts

Individually administered developmental screening test designed to identify young children in need of further diagnostic assessment

– Appropriate for children ages 2:6 through 5:11
– Administration Time 30 to 45 minutes
– English and Spanish versions
DIAL-4 Quick Facts

Screens in five areas in both the English and Spanish versions

- Motor
- Concepts
- Language

(Performance-based measures)

- Self-Help Development
- Social–Emotional Development

(Ratings based on teacher/caregiver observation)
DIAL-4 Quick Facts

Each performance area provides a rating scale of psychosocial behaviors that must be observed during the screening to help determine if the child is in need of further assessment in that domain (Behavioral Observations).

**Behavioral Observations: Motor Area**
Mark the option that best describes the child’s behavior during Motor Area screening. If unsure, use your best judgment.

1. **Separation from adult**
   - easy
   - hesitant
   - unable to separate

2. **Crying/whining**
   - none
   - a little
   - a lot

3. **Verbal response to questions**
   - willing
   - reluctant
   - no response

4. **Persistence (nonverbal)**
   - stays with task
   - attempts task
   - refuses task

5. **Attention**
   - pays attention throughout task
   - pays attention some of the time
   - pays attention only briefly

6. **Activity level**
   - sits quietly
   - some wiggling
   - excessive wiggling

7. **Participation**
   - willingly participates
   - needs encouragement
   - unwilling to try tasks

8. **Impulsivity**
   - waits for directions
   - begins before directions are finished on some tasks
   - begins before directions are finished on most/all tasks

9. **Understands directions**
   - easily understands
   - needs some repetition
   - unable to understand

10. **Please rate the overall intelligibility of the child’s speech in this area.**
    - Good (You can understand everything the child says.)
    - Poor (You cannot understand what the child says.)
    - OK (You can understand the child about 50% of the time.)
    - Child did not say anything.

Total Score (max = 18)
DIAL-4 Components
Parent Questionnaire

Parent Questionnaire
Carol Macdell, PhD
Doothea S. Goldenberg, EdD

Child's name ____________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ___

Date of Birth ______ Age ______

Sex: □ Male □ Female

Date Form Filed/Out
Date

This form was filled out by:
□ Mother □ Father □ Other (please specify relationship):

Name of person filling out form ____________________________ Home phone # ______
C-mail address of person filling out form ______________________

To the Parent:
This form has three parts that ask for information about your child.

Part 1: Self-Help Development asks about everyday skills that children are expected to learn (for example, dressing and feeding themselves).

Part 2: Social-Emotional Development asks about how your child gets along with other children and how he or she feels about himself or herself.

Part 3: Overall Development asks about any concerns or worries you might have about your child.

Please note that some items may ask about skills that your child is not ready for yet. Please do not be concerned. We use the same form for children ages 2 years 6 months through 5 years 11 months, and we ask about some skills that are difficult even for the oldest children.

Thank you for your help.
Teacher Questionnaire

Self-Help Development

Social-Emotional Development

[Overall Development]
DIAL-4 Kit
English and Spanish
Speed DIAL-4

The Speed DIAL-4 contains a subset of items from the DIAL-4 test that can be administered in approximately 20 minutes.

10 Core items from Motor, Concepts, and Language areas.
Speed DIAL-4
Speed DIAL-4 Items

1. Stand, Hop, and Skip (Motor - Item 2)
   Standing on One Leg, Hopping, Skipping
2. Body Parts (Concepts - Item 1)
3. Rapid Object Naming (Concepts - Item 3)
   Object Identification, Rapid Naming
4. Colors (Concepts - Item 2)
5. Meaningful Counting (Concepts - Item 5)
   Counting Blocks, Number Relationships
6. Articulation (Language - Item 2)
7. Actions (Language - Item 3)
8. Letters and Sounds (Language - Item 4)
   Alphabet Song, Letter Naming, Letter-Sound Correspondence
9. Problem Solving (Language - Item 6)
10. Copying (Motor - Item 6)
Speed DIAL-4 Items

A look at administration and scoring for each of the 10 items.
Calculating the Speed DIAL-4 Total Score

Age 5-3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed DIAL-4 Total Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITEM 1 Weighted Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM 2 Weighted Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM 3 Weighted Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM 4 Weighted Score</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITEM 5 Weighted Score</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITEM 6 Weighted Score</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITEM 7 Weighted Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM 8 Weighted Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM 9 Weighted Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM 10 Weighted Score</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 + 1 + 3 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 5 = 30

(max = 50)
What do the Data Mean?
## Selecting a Cutoff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent (%)</th>
<th>Standard Deviation (SD) below the mean</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
# Making a Decision (Potential Delay or OK)

**Age 5-3**

## Score Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Areas</th>
<th>TOTAL SCORE</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Potential Delay</th>
<th>OK</th>
<th>Percentile Rank</th>
<th>Standard Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed DIAL-4</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>82</td>
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</table>
References


Customer Service
1-800-627-7271 (USA)
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Webinar-Specific Questions
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