Assessing Language

- Identify a disorder
- Describe the disorder in terms of
  - Aspects/domains affected
  - Modalities affected
  - Strengths and needs
- Plan intervention of treatment

Language Domains

- Form—syntax, morphology, phonology
- Content—semantic components: knowledge of vocabulary and knowledge about objects and events
- Use—pragmatics: the rules of oral language used in responding to and conveying messages
Language Modalities

• Receptive language
  – Listening, listening comprehension, understanding

• Expressive language
  – Speaking, oral expression

CELF Preschool 2

• An individually administered, norm-referenced test developed to identify, diagnose, and use in follow-up evaluation of language and communication disorders in preschool children ages 3—6 years of age.
• With this revision of CELF Preschool, only three subtests need be administered to obtain a Core Language score.

What’s New

• Four step model closely reflects clinical decision-making model
• Core Language Score—requires the administration of only 3 subtests to determine eligibility for service
• Pragmatics Profile—helps describe the child’s language use at school or at home
What else is new?

• Literacy component—Phonological Awareness subtest and Pre-Literacy Rating Scale strengthen ties to literacy
• Norms based on a nationally representative sample, including children with identified conditions and diagnosed language disorders

Anything else?

• Index Scores—Receptive Language, Expressive Language, Language Content, and Language Structure
• Evaluates all 4 aspects of language
  – Morphology and Syntax
  – Semantics
  – Pragmatics
  – Phonology (Phonological Awareness)
• Subtests—Revised, Expanded, and New
• Clinical Validity Studies—Language disorder, mild autism, mild or moderate hearing loss

And…

• CELF Preschool—2 provides a smooth transition to CELF 4 with overlapping and correlated items (5 and 6 year olds)
Components

- Examiner’s Manual includes
  - Administration and scoring directions
  - Test interpretation information with demonstrative case studies
  - All norms
    - Age equivalents for all subtests with directions for computation of Index Score (AES)
    - Development and technical information (no separate technical manual)

- Stimulus Books (2 of them)
  - Easel back, spiral bound
  - Full color picture stimuli
  - Tabbed and color-coded subtest dividers
  - Administration instructions for all subtests are printed on the reverse side of the picture stimuli so the examiner can read verbal stimuli from the book

- 2 Checklists (tear-off, double-sided pad of 25)
  - Pre-literacy Rating Scale-elicits information from the teacher and/or parent regarding the child’s emerging reading and writing skills
  - Descriptive Pragmatics Profile-elicits information from the teacher and/or parent regarding the child’s social language skills
Components

• Record Form
  – Covers ages 3 – 6
  – Color-coded for easier administration, recording of child’s responses, and scoring

• C & FD Stimulus Sheet
  – Assists in administering Concepts and Following Directions subtest

What are New Subtests?

• Expressive Vocabulary
• Concepts & Following Directions
• Recalling Sentences
• Phonological Awareness
• Word Classes

CELF–4 Assessment Process

Is there a language disorder?

What is the nature of the disorder?

Are early classroom and literacy fundamentals affected?

Is communication in context affected?
Core Language Score

- Norm referenced standard score
- Measures general language ability
- Quantifies a child’s overall language performance
- Used to make decisions about the presence or absence of a language disorder

Core Language Score

- Made up of those subtests that best discriminate typical language performance from disordered language performance
- Takes less time than CELF Preschool to obtain a Core Language Score

Index Scores

- Measure language modalities and language domains
- Provide information about strengths and weaknesses in content, form and across modalities
- Factor based
- Norm-referenced Standard Scores
Index Scores

- Receptive Language Index
- Expressive Language Index
- Language Content Index
- Language Structure Index

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