



Which test is right for the youngest children on your caseload?

PLS™-5 provides a broad overview of developmental skills; CELF® Preschool-2 assesses discrete language skills needed for classroom success. Use the following chart to help you determine which test best meets the needs of the young children you serve.



What is the referral question?

Which early speech and language skills has the child acquired? What are the gaps in developmental language skills?

Is this preschooler able to handle the language demands of the classroom? Which specific language skills is this preschooler missing?

At what ages can children be tested to obtain normed scores?

Birth through 7:11

3:0 through 6:11

What is the test purpose?

Identify a child with a language delay or disorder that interferes with communication. Screen children for possible articulation delays.

Identify a language delay or disorder that has a negative impact on classroom success.

What information about the child's language does this test provide?

A broad overview of developmental language skills (verbal and nonverbal) in language domains affecting communication. For younger children, caregivers provide information about the child's communication abilities in the home.

In-depth assessment of semantics, morphology, and syntax, with checklists used to assess pragmatics and emerging literacy.

Which tool provides the most information about the child's level of language ability?

PLS-5 can be used to assess children with moderate to severe delays. Provides more detailed information about a child's language skills when the child

- Is functioning at a pre-linguistic level, at a 1- or 2- word level, or using sentence structures far below the level of age-peers
- Exhibits deficits across multiple language domains
- Is placed in supported classroom environments (e.g., early childhood settings) with or without adaptations
- Has difficulty participating in regular education settings due to very limited communication skills or social interaction skills

CELF Preschool-2 can be used to assess children with mild to moderate delays. Provides more detailed information about a child's language skills when the child

- Uses morphological and syntactic forms somewhat below the level of age-peers
- Exhibits deficits in 1-2 language domains (e.g. morphology or semantics)
- Has difficulty mastering curriculum requirements in regular education classroom environments with or without adaptations
- Has difficulty participating in classroom activities due to atypical social interaction skills

Which speech and language skills are tested?	<p>Provides a broad survey of pre-linguistic skills through emergent literacy skills, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention to environment and people • Gesture • Play • Vocal development • Social communication • Vocabulary • Concepts • Morphology • Syntax • Integrative language skills (e.g., analogies, inferences) <p>Includes an articulation screening</p>	<p>In-depth assessment of preschool- and early school-level language skills in the areas of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary • Concepts • Following directions • Word relationships • Morphology • Syntax • Pragmatics • Phonological awareness • Pre-literacy
How is this test structured?	<p>Two scales: Auditory Comprehension and Expressive Communication</p> <p>Supplemental Measures: Articulation Screener, Home Communication Questionnaire, and Language Sample Checklist.</p>	<p>11 subtests</p> <p>Pre-Literacy Rating Scale</p> <p>Descriptive Pragmatics Profile</p>
How do I elicit language behaviors?	<p>Interactive, play based tasks using manipulatives, and simple picture pointing and question-answering formats.</p> <p>There are two to six items per task.</p>	<p>Child-friendly, but highly structured tasks.</p> <p>There are 13 to 24 test items per subtest.</p>
What languages are available?	<p>English Edition</p> <p>Spanish Edition (dual language format for bilingual children)</p>	<p>English Edition</p> <p>Spanish Edition</p>
How similar is the normative group to my population?	<p>Year normative sample collected: 2012</p> <p>Race/ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53.7% White; 46.3% Non-white <p>Parent education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40.7% Parent Education: 12 years or less • 59.4% Parent Education: 13+ years <p>*May not sum to 100% due to rounding</p>	<p>Year normative sample collected: 2002</p> <p>Race/ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62.1% White; 37.9% Non-white <p>Parent education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45.5% Parent Education: 12 years or less • 54.5% Parent Education: 13+ years <p>*May not sum to 100% due to rounding</p>
What normative scores are available?	<p>Standard scores, percentile ranks, age equivalents, growth scale values.</p>	<p>Standard scores, percentile ranks, age equivalents, growth scale values.</p>
Why do PLS-5 and CELF Preschool-2 sometimes result in different scores?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two tests are normed on two different normative populations eight years apart. Demographic characteristics have shifted significantly since the publication of CELF Preschool-2 in 2003. • PLS-5 is a play-based assessment for children at the younger ages, and provides many more verbal cues and supports than CELF-Preschool 2. CELF Preschool-2, while child-friendly, has more structured tasks and provides fewer cues and supports. • PLS-5 provides credit for interpersonal communication-based tasks; CELF Preschool-2 normative scores are based on subtests focusing on semantics, morphology, and syntax. 	