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Introduction to the BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III (F & 1)

OVERVIEW

The BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III (F & 1) is a collection of quick, highly accurate assessments and data-gathering tools to use with Foundation year (Prep, Reception, Kindergarten etc.) and Year One children.

Foundation and Year One are a time of rapid growth and learning, and screening can provide an important understanding of the child's development at a particular point in time. Screening can serve as the first step in assessing a child's school readiness, providing a snapshot of a child's mastery of early developmental and academic skills.

Screening also enables educators to readily identify those children who may have developmental delays and those children who may be advanced as early as possible to ensure these children receive appropriate intervention and support services.

The Screen III includes the following age-specific screens (each of which can be conducted quickly, usually within 10–15 minutes):

- Core Assessments – Foundation
- Core Assessments – Year One

All assessments in the Screen III have been standardised, producing scores that are highly reliable, valid and accurate. Assessment items in the age-specific screens are norm-referenced as well as criterion-referenced and cover a broad sampling of a child's skills and behaviours. Key developmental areas include:

- Physical Development
- Language Development
- Academic Skills/Cognitive Development (Literacy and Mathematics)

Data-gathering tools available for the Screen III include:

- Age-specific Data Sheets to record screening results, providing a one-page review of the child's screening performance
- Self-help and Social-Emotional Scales to gather data about the child's eating, dressing and toileting skills as well as about the child's relationships with adults and peers, play skills, self-confidence and self-regulatory skills
- Reading Readiness Scale to gather data about the child's emergent literacy skills and readiness to engage in formal reading instruction
- Screening Observations Forms to record observations captured during screening
- Parent Feedback Forms to record input about the child's skills and behaviours from parents/caregivers
- Teacher Feedback Forms to record input about the child's skills and behaviours from teachers

The assessments and data-gathering tools in the Screen III help early primary teachers and program directors

- satisfy early identification and screening requirements.
- initiate referrals for further evaluation or special services.
- determine school readiness by assessing a child's mastery of key skills that are predictors of school success.
- guide individualised and group instruction.
- communicate a child's development to parents/caregivers.
- monitor and report progress over time, using the BRIGANCE® Online Management System. (Subscription rates apply.)

The Brigance Screens III are broadly consistent with the Belonging, Being & Becoming: Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, which stipulates that assessing children's learning refers to the process of gathering and analysing information as evidence about what children know, can do and understand, as part of an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluating their learning.
**USING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREEN III TO SUPPORT YOUR PROGRAM**

The BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III (F & 1) can help your program meet screening requirements, determine school readiness, initiate referrals for further evaluation or special services, monitor progress and guide instruction. Follow the guidelines below when implementing the Screen III in your program.

**MAKE IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS FOR SCREENING**

To help meet the screening requirements of your program, determine which methods of data collection offered by the Screen III to use, when children in the program will be screened and what, if any, cut-off scores will be used.

**Determine Tools for Data Collection**

Screening is a process in which one or more professionals work with a child to obtain the most valid sampling of the child’s skills and behaviours. Screening of early developmental and academic skills helps to identify those children with delayed or advanced development and, therefore, allows appropriate professionals to address those issues as soon as possible. The following Screen III data-gathering tools can be used to provide data from multiple sources:

- **Data Sheet** for each age-specific screen, providing an at-a-glance record of the child’s performance for each screening assessment
- Supplemental Assessments – assessments for children who are more developmentally advanced
- Screening Observations Form – a detailed record of the examiner’s observations while screening
- Teacher Feedback Form – a record of the teacher’s view of the child’s skills and behaviours
- Parent Feedback Form – a take-home parent/caregiver evaluation of the child’s skills and behaviours
- Self-help and Social-Emotional Scales – standardised assessments to gather data on the child’s eating, dressing and toileting skills and self-confidence, independence, relationships with adults and peers, and play skills
- Reading Readiness Scale – standardised assessment to gather data on the child’s emergent literacy skills

When implementing the Screen III, determine which sources of data to use in your program. The diagram to the right shows how the Screen III can be used as a model for data collection, review/evaluation and placement/referral.

*Optional
Determine When to Screen

Determine when and how often your program will administer the Screen III. Use the guidelines below to decide when the initial screening and follow-up screening should take place.

- **Initial Screening**
  To begin, determine when a child’s initial screening should take place. The initial screening can serve as a baseline indicator of performance. If your program is interested in screening multiple children at one time, see Appendix D on page 100 for information about the Station Method of Screening.

- **Follow-up Screening**
  - **Re-screening** is recommended for children who score low in the first screening. The second screening should be done four to six weeks after the first screening or after remedial activities have been implemented. For those children who score lower than expected due to screening on a “bad day” (or on a day just prior to the onset of an illness or just after an illness), re-screen at a more appropriate time. This second screening can be conducted closer to the initial screening date.
  - **Midyear or end-of-year screening** serves as a means to measure growth and to help identify progress children are making during the program year. (See page xxii for information about using the screen as a post test.)

Determine Which Cut-off Scores to Use

To accommodate the needs of your program, you may wish to use cut-off scores. A child’s individual score can be compared to cut-off scores to quickly determine if a child may have developmental disabilities or delays or if the child is likely to be developmentally advanced. Your program may choose to use the BRIGANCE® Cut-off Scores or to customise cut-off scores for your specific program.

- **BRIGANCE Cut-off Scores**
  The Screen III includes three sets of cut-off scores, each based on results from the U.S. national standardisation study.
  - Cut-off scores for detecting children who potentially have developmental disabilities or delays
  - Cut-off scores for detecting children who may be developmentally advanced or gifted
  - Cut-off scores for at-risk children (for Foundation children)
  If you plan to use any of these cut-off scores, it is important that the child is administered all assessments in the age-appropriate screen.

- **Customised Cut-off Scores**
  Your program may choose to customise cut-off scores. For example, your program may decide that children who score in the lower 20th percentile of the group will be referred for additional assessment. A child who scores below your program’s customised cut-off score may be further evaluated by screening personnel and considered for more comprehensive assessment.

See STEP 4 of the Step-by-Step Screening Procedures on page xvii for details about when and how to use cut-off scores.
DETERMINE SCHOOL READINESS

The *Screen III (F & 1)* provides a consistent means of determining the school readiness of children entering Foundation Year (the first year of school, be it prep, reception, kindergarten, etc.). Screening Foundation-age children with the Foundation Core Assessments (and the optional Self-help and Social-Emotional Scales and Reading Readiness Scale) offers a quick, yet comprehensive snapshot of a child’s mastery of skills across key school readiness domains.

PROVIDE ONGOING ASSESSMENT AND MONITOR PROGRESS

Both the U.S. National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the U.S. National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) stress the importance of ongoing assessment. Monitoring progress during Foundation and Year One helps educators and parents/caregivers build a foundation of early developmental and academic skills, supporting the child’s future school success.

The BRIGANCE® Early Childhood family of products offers multiple ways to provide ongoing assessment and to monitor progress.

- The *Screen III* can be used to measure and report progress during the year. After the initial screening, a second screening can take place at midyear or end of year to measure progress over time. (See page xxii for further information about using the *Screen III* to monitor progress.)
- The Early Childhood family also includes the BRIGANCE Inventory of Early Development III (IED III), a comprehensive inventory of criterion-referenced developmental assessments that correlate directly with the assessments in the *Screen III*. Following an initial screening, the assessments in the *IED III* can be used for ongoing assessment as well as for progress monitoring over multiple evaluation periods.

PROVIDE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION

Using the information gathered from administering the *Screen III*, educators can then plan appropriate individual and group instruction. Screening results from administering the Core Assessments demonstrate initial areas of strength and weakness; results from administering the Supplemental Assessments can determine mastery of other, often more advanced skills. Additional assessment with the comprehensive IED III will further support instructional planning. (See page xxii for more information about using the IED III) Together, results from administering these assessments can be used to plan targeted instruction to address each child’s needs.

Based on these assessment results, the BRIGANCE® Readiness Activities can be used to deliver developmentally appropriate instruction. The Readiness Activities is a collection of activities correlated with the skills in the *Screen III* and IED III. Objectives and recommendations for effective teaching are included in the Readiness Activities. In addition, the BRIGANCE® Online Management System provides instructional recommendations tied to the Readiness Activities. (Subscription rates apply.)
Standardisation and Validation

Built on more than 30 years of research and experience in child development, the BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screens III are highly accurate, reliable and valid assessment tools. Selected assessments from the criterion-referenced BRIGANCE® Inventory of Early Development III were standardised and validated in 2012 on a United States-wide, nationally representative geographic, demographic and socioeconomic sample. Items from these standardised and validated assessments were selected to create the age-specific screens in the Screens III. Teachers can confidently compare a child’s screening performance to the national sample to determine if a child has potential developmental delays or giftedness.

The standardisation study was conducted on a large, geographically diverse sample of 1929 children who are representative of the population of the United States (U.S.) in terms of ethnicity, gender and family socioeconomic status. Due to this strong research base, results from administered Screens III reliably identify those children who have delays, those who are advanced in development, and those who are developing at a typical rate.

For over 30 years, the validity of the assessments in the Screens III has enjoyed positive professional scrutiny from researchers.

- Validation studies have shown the assessments in the Early Childhood Screens III to have substantial content and construct validity, excellent concurrent validity and a high degree of discriminant validity.
- The Screens III are highly reliable tools. The overall scores for the Core Assessments have
  - outstanding internal consistency (.94 –.98).
  - excellent test/retest reliability (.92 –.99).
  - outstanding inter-examiner reliability (.93–.96).
- The Screens III are highly accurate, and a single screening will identify
  - 91% of children with disabilities.
  - 87% of children with advanced development.

Standardisation means that
- the directions for administration and for scoring have been field-tested and are explicitly stated so that the test can be administered in exactly the same way by different examiners.
- the nearly 2000 children to whom the test was administered represent the geographic regions of the United States and the demographic characteristics of the U.S. population as a whole.
- the scores can be compared to the established standardised cut-off scores to determine a child’s need for additional evaluation.

For detailed information on the 2012 Standardisation and Validation Study, see Chapters 7–10 of the BRIGANCE® Screens III Technical Manual.
Step-by-Step Screening Procedures

STEP 1: GET READY TO SCREEN

PLAN AHEAD
To administer the BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III effectively and efficiently, it is important that teachers
• spend time becoming familiar with the directions and scoring procedures before screening a child.
• practise administration several times before screening a child.
• administer the assessments within the age-appropriate screen in strict accordance with the directions given for each assessment.

The following suggestions can help you plan ahead for successful assessment.

Become familiar with the assessment procedures so that you can conduct the assessment in a natural manner and can focus your attention on the child. If helpful, mark pages you will use so that you can quickly locate the information you will need.

Schedule screening early in the day, reducing the chance that the child will be hungry or tired.

Eliminate distractions. Conduct the screening in an environment free of background noises or disturbances and remove any materials that may distract the child.

DETERMINE THE CHILD’S ROUNDED CHRONOLOGICAL AGE
In order to compare a child’s results to cut-off scores and derive standardised scores, you must first determine the child’s rounded chronological age.

Compute chronological age: On the child’s Data Sheet, write the Date of Screening in the top row and the child’s Birth Date in the second row. Subtract the Birth Date from the Date of Screening, borrowing months and years as needed. If a number for the Date of Screening is smaller than the number below it for the Birth Date, you will need to borrow.

Begin with the Day column. If you need to borrow, convert 1 month to 30 days, add 30 to the number of days, and then subtract from this revised figure. Next, subtract the numbers in the Month column. If you need to borrow, convert 1 year to 12 months, add 12 to the number of months and then subtract.

(In the example below, 30 + 7 = 37 days, 12 + 2 = 14 months.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date of Screening
Birth Date
2007
5
22
Age
5
9
15

Round chronological age: Once you have computed the child’s chronological age in years, months and days, round the number of days. If there are fewer than 15 days, simply ignore the days and use the years and months as the child’s chronological age. If there are 15 days or more, round the month up by 1.

(In the example below, the chronological age 5 years, 9 months and 15 days is rounded up to 5 years, 10 months.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age
5
10
15

SELECT THE AGE-APPROPRIATE SCREEN AND DATA SHEET
There is one screen and one Data Sheet for each age level. After determining the child’s chronological age, be sure that you have selected the appropriate screen and Data Sheet from the following:

Foundation: 5 years, 0 months to 5 years, 11 months
Year One: 6 years, 0 months and older
ORGANISE MATERIALS

Gather and organise all materials required for the assessments you are administering. This will allow you to focus your attention on the child and on administering the assessments.

To administer the Screen III (F & I), you will need:

- The BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III (F & I)
- The age-specific Data Sheet, determined by the chronological age of the child (See sample Data Sheets on pages xv–xvi.)

Specific materials needed for conducting an assessment are listed under MATERIALS on the first page of the assessment. The materials needed are common items readily available in most early childhood settings:

- A pencil* (the type commonly used by the child)
- 12 small identical objects for counting*
- 16 shapes (circles and squares) of two colours for sorting*
- A picture book with at least 3 lines of text on each page
- A timer or a watch with a second hand
- A copy of each age-appropriate child page
- Blank sheets of paper for covering distracting items on a child page

* included in the Screens III Box of Materials

Optional Materials you may choose to use:

- Supplemental Assessments Data Sheets
- Screening Observations Form
- Teacher Feedback Forms – Foundation and Year One
- Parent Feedback Forms – Foundation and Year One
- Teacher Report and Scoring Form – Self-help and Social-Emotional Scales
- Parent Report – Self-help and Social-Emotional Scales
- Teacher Report and Scoring Form – Reading Readiness Scale
- Parent Report – Reading Readiness Scale

IDENTIFY ACCOMMODATIONS

Before you screen, be aware of any physical conditions or cultural and language differences that may affect the child’s score. Make adjustments in the sequencing of skills or in the screening procedures to accommodate the needs of the child. Consider accommodations when you think the child will not perform well due to

- speech difficulties.
- language differences or difficulties.
- difficulty in understanding directions.
- hearing problems.
- vision problems.

See Screening Children with Special Considerations on page xxiv for more information about screening bilingual or non-English-speaking children and screening children with exceptionalities.

When accommodations are necessary, consider the following:

- Use information from families to identify what may act as a motivator to facilitate the child’s optimal performance.
- Become familiar with the screening items and the way certain accommodations may impact performance and scoring.
- Keep a record of the accommodations implemented.

Note: If you are using the Screen III as a standardised instrument, it is critical to use the age-appropriate screen and to follow the directions explicitly.

RECORD CHILD INFORMATION ON THE DATA SHEET

Before you screen, write the child’s personal information in Section A of the Data Sheet. Completing this section of the Data Sheet before screening allows you to focus your attention on the child and on the administration of the assessments during the screening session. (If English is not the child’s primary language, note the child’s primary language in Section D of the Data Sheet.) Use official records or information from parents/caregivers to confirm the accuracy of the child’s information.

ORGANISE MATERIALS

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- Become familiar with the screening items and the way certain accommodations may impact performance and scoring.
- Keep a record of the accommodations implemented.

Note: If you are using the Screen III as a standardised instrument, it is critical to use the age-appropriate screen and to follow the directions explicitly.
**STEP 2: SCREEN THE CHILD**

**SCREENING PROCEDURES**

Before screening a child, read all the information on the first page of each age-appropriate assessment. Make special note of the Scoring Information. Then follow the specific Directions given for each assessment. Many assessments include specific language to use as you administer the assessment. To guide your determination of skill mastery, some assessments provide criteria for determining whether a child should receive credit for a skill. If the child’s skill mastery is marginal, emerging or inconsistent, do not give credit.

**POSITIONING THE SCREEN III CORRECTLY**

The format of the Screen III allows both you and the child to follow the assessment procedures easily. The Screen III can be opened to an assessment and placed on a table between you and the child, as shown below.

![Diagram of Screen III placement](image)

**TIPS FOR SCREENING**

- **Read directions and questions in a natural manner.** Keep the assessments moving comfortably and informally.
- **Remain objective.** Extra assistance given to a child during screening may influence the child’s performance and could invalidate the results.
- **If the child has difficulty focusing on a single item on a child page,** cover the other items with blank sheets of paper.

**TIPS FOR ESTABLISHING RAPPORT**

Children are generally slow to warm up to and cooperate with an unfamiliar person. They may refuse to answer questions, attempt to leave the screening area, become tearful, or alternately grab for test materials or play with toys they brought with them. To establish rapport with the child during screening, consider the suggestions in this section.

**Guiding Desirable Behaviour**

The following suggestions may help make the assessment process more comfortable, enjoyable and even fun for both you and the child.

- **Create a welcoming screening environment.** Make sure there is ample seating for the child and that the space is quiet and well lit. Thank the child beforehand for participating. Explain that you will be presenting several different kinds of games and tasks. Ask the child to do the best that he/she can.
- **Use clear but pleasant requests** such as “Come with me. We are going to draw and play with some shapes.” Do not ask the child whether he/she would like to participate since any subsequent refusals are challenging.
- **Incorporate “wiggle breaks”.** Because it is unlikely that young children can remain seated throughout screening, “wiggle breaks” should be interspersed among assessment items. It is acceptable to move to the floor, back to the chair and even under the table!
- **Introduce tasks as “games” rather than as tests.**
• Use verbal reinforcement and show interest and enthusiasm in the child's effort but do not indicate whether the child's response was correct or incorrect. Be objective. Do not show feelings of disappointment when the child gives an incorrect response or feelings of satisfaction when the child is doing well.

• Use stickers to reinforce the child's effort. You may wish to give a sticker between assessments. Give stickers throughout the screening to reward effort, not only when the child has success.

• Set time expectations for the child. To help the child understand how long the assessment session will be, you may wish to have the child turn the dial of a timer to a predetermined point. Explain to the child that when the timer goes off, he/she will have a chance to play.

Handling Undesirable Behaviour
The following suggestions may help if the child becomes upset or refuses to participate.

• Take a break or stop the screening and reschedule if the child becomes upset or cries and cannot be soothed.

• Offer choices if the child refuses to participate in the assessment process. For example, say, "Would you like to count for me or draw some shapes first?"

• Switch to another task if the child refuses to engage in a particular assessment in the screen. After the child feels more secure, return to the earlier assessment.

PRECAUTIONS WHEN SCREENING
• Prompting, giving unnecessary encouragement, or providing unscripted demonstrations can mask the child's actual strengths and needs and can invalidate the child's screening results, making it challenging to detect a child's delayed or advanced development.

• Do not give the child reminders. It can be tempting for an examiner or teacher to provide reminders as a form of encouragement, such as "You know this. We did it yesterday." Reminders may cause the child to give a response that is not representative of his/her knowledge or abilities, potentially invalidating the child's screening results.

• Avoid gazing at the correct choice. Occasionally, a child is alert to where the examiner is looking and will use this as a cue to responding. If the child gives a correct response based on where the examiner is looking, performance may be inflated.

• You may wish to place the child's Data Sheet out of the child's line of vision. Some children feel anxious when they see an examiner recording performance.
STEP 3: COMPLETE THE DATA SHEET

Follow the instructions below to fill in each section of the Data Sheet. Sample completed Data Sheets can be found on pages xi–xvi.

A. Child’s Information: This information should be current and should clearly identify the child. Use official records or information from parents/caregivers to confirm the accuracy of the child’s information. If you plan to derive standardised scores, you must compute the child’s chronological age. Go to page x for instructions on computing chronological age.

B. Core Assessments: Core Assessment information and page numbers on the Data Sheet correspond to those in the screen. To keep testing time as short as possible, each assessment provides a specific discontinue point. Once this point is reached, discontinue the assessment. Because the skills within each assessment are in developmental order, you can assume that the higher-level items (those beyond the discontinue point) are too hard and you should not administer them. The exact number of incorrect responses in a row that establishes the discontinue point for an assessment is shown on the Data Sheet in the Discontinue column.

Circle the item number of a skill for which the child gives a correct response; slash through the item number of a skill for which the child offers an incorrect response or does not demonstrate the skill requested.

To guide your determination of skill mastery, some assessments provide criteria for determining whether a child should receive credit for a skill. If the child’s skill mastery is marginal, emerging or inconsistent, do not give credit for the skill on the child’s Data Sheet.

If probing above the discontinue point, mark all items for which the child gives a correct response with a Δ; do not give credit for any skill above the discontinue point when scoring.

C. Scoring: In order to focus your attention on the child during screening, do not calculate the score until after the screening is completed. An examiner who is calculating scores while the child is responding to items may miss revealing observations.

Point values assigned to each assessment in the screen allow a Total Score of 100. To derive a child’s Total Score:

1. Record the number of correct responses for each assessment in the Number Correct column. Do not count any correct responses above the discontinue point.
2. Multiply the Number Correct by the assigned Point Value. Record this number in the Child’s Score column.
3. Calculate the Total Score by adding the numbers in the Child’s Score column.

D. Notes/Observations: Make notes and record any significant observations made during screening. You may wish to record observations or conclusions regarding the child’s hearing, vision, health, behaviour and emotional well-being. If English is not the child’s primary language, record the child’s primary language and other notes and observations in the Notes section or on the back of the Data Sheet.

E. Next Steps: Record any next steps or recommendations regarding placement and referral here. You may also wish to record if the child scored above or below cut-off scores.

Note: When using cut-off scores, it is necessary to administer all assessments within the age-specific screen. (See page xvii for more information about cut-off scores.)
**BRIGANCE® Screen III**  
**Foundation Data Sheet**

### A. Child's Name
Will Zimmer

### Parent(s)/Caregiver(s)
__________________

### Birth Date
2007 11 28

### Address
4618 Kensington Ave.  Raleigh

### Age
11

### Examiner
Sonya Min

### School/Program
Chifley Park Primary

## B. Core Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Directions: Assessments may be administered in any order. For each assessment, start with the first item and proceed in order. Give credit for a skill by circling the item number. For a skill not demonstrated (an incorrect response), slash through the item number.</th>
<th>Discontinue</th>
<th>Numeral Correct</th>
<th>Child's Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>1A Knows Personal Information  Knows: first name  last name  age  birthday (month and day)  telephone number  street address</td>
<td>Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row.</td>
<td>4 × 1.5</td>
<td>6 / 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>2A Names Parts of the Body  Names: thumbs  fingernails  chin  chest  elbows  shoulders</td>
<td>Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row.</td>
<td>3 × 1</td>
<td>3 / 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Physical Development</td>
<td>3A Gross Motor Skills  Stands on one foot for ten seconds  Stands on other foot for ten seconds  Stands on one foot for one second with eyes closed</td>
<td>Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row.</td>
<td>3 × 1</td>
<td>3 / 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Physical Development</td>
<td>4A Visual Motor Skills  Draws: a square  a rectangle  a triangle  a hand</td>
<td>Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row.</td>
<td>3 × 1.5</td>
<td>4.5 / 7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Physical Development</td>
<td>5A Prints Personal Information  Prints: last name</td>
<td>Administer both items.</td>
<td>2 × 3</td>
<td>6 / 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>6A Recites Alphabet (1 point per group)</td>
<td>Stop after the first error.</td>
<td>5 × 1</td>
<td>5 / 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>7A Counts by Size, Colour, Shape  Sorts by: size and colour  size and shape</td>
<td>Administer both items.</td>
<td>1 × 3</td>
<td>3 / 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>8A Counts by Rote (3 points per group)  Counts to: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</td>
<td>Stop after the first error.</td>
<td>2 × 3</td>
<td>6 / 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>9A Matches Quantities with Numerals  Matches quantity with numeral for: 1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td>Stop after 2 incorrect responses in a row.</td>
<td>2 × 2</td>
<td>4 / 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>10A Determines Total of Two Sets  Counts two groups of objects for a sum up to ten: 1 dot + 2 dots = 3 dots  2 dots + 2 dots = 4 dots  5 stars + 5 stars = 10 stars</td>
<td>Administer all items.</td>
<td>2 × 3</td>
<td>6 / 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>11A Reads Uppercase Letters  Give credit for only one assessment – Reads Uppercase Letters OR Reads Lowercase Letters.</td>
<td>Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row.</td>
<td>16 × 0.5</td>
<td>8 / 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>11A Alternate – Reads Lowercase Letters  Give credit for only one assessment – Reads Uppercase Letters OR Reads Lowercase Letters.</td>
<td>Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row.</td>
<td>___ × 0.5</td>
<td>8 / 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Academic/ Cognitive</td>
<td>12A Experience with Books and Text  Knows the front and back of a book  Understands that text progresses from top to bottom</td>
<td>Administer all items.</td>
<td>1 × 1.5</td>
<td>1.5 / 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>13A Verbal Fluency and Articulation  Uses sentences of at least five words  At least 90% of speech is intelligible</td>
<td>Administer all items.</td>
<td>2 × 5</td>
<td>10 / 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Score = 66 / 100**

### D. Notes/Observations:

### E. Next Steps:  **Below cutoff of <70. (4 risk factors identified)**  
**Score on Acad/Cog assessments = 39.5; below at-risk cutoff — Refer for evaluation.**
B. Core Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Directions: Assessments may be administered in any order. For each assessment, start with the first item and proceed in order. Give credit for a skill by circling the item number. For a skill not demonstrated (an incorrect response), slash through the item number.</th>
<th>C. Scoring</th>
<th>Number Correct x Point Value for Each</th>
<th>Child's Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 26   | Academic / Cognitive | 1B Knows Personal Information  
Knows: 1. Telephone number  2. Street address  3. Complete address  4. Birthday (month and day)  5. Year of birth | Administer all items. | 4 x 1.5 | 6 / 7.5 |
| 28   | Language Development | 2B Auditory Discrimination  
Discriminates beginning sounds:  1. job – job (the same)  2. go – so (not the same)  3. pig – big (not the same) | Administer all items. | 5 x 1.5 | 7.5 / 7.5 |
| 29   | Academic / Cognitive: Literacy | 3B Visual Discrimination – Lowercase Letters and Words  
| 30   | Academic / Cognitive: Literacy | 4B Reads Lowercase Letters  
| 31   | Language Development | 5B Identifies Initial Letters  
Letters: 1. m  2. a  3. t  4. men  5. mud  6. m  7. heel  8. hood  9. hut  10. h  | Administer all items. | 4 x 2 | 8 / 10 |
| 32   | Academic / Cognitive: Mathematics | 6B Sorts Objects (by Size, Colour, Shape)  
Sorts by Two Attributes: 1. Sorts by size and colour  2. Sorts by size and shape | Stop after 2 incorrect responses in a row. | 4 x 2.5 | 10 / 10 |
| 34   | Language Development | 7B Listening Vocabulary Comprehension  
Words: 1. hand  2. duck  3. fish  4. brush  5. scissors | Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row. | 4 x 2 | 8 / 10 |
| 35   | Academic / Cognitive: Literacy | 8B Word Recognition  
Words: 1. a  2. go  3. is  4. do  5. run  6. can  7. down  8. so  9. come  10. of  11. yes  12. fast  13. green  14. eat  15. trend  16. picture  17. both  18. never  | Stop after 3 incorrect responses in a row. | 18 x 0.5 | 9 / 10 |
| 36   | Physical Development | 9B Prints Personal Information  
Prints: 1. first name  2. last name | Administer both items. | 2 x 2 | 4 / 4 |
| 37   | Physical Development | 10B Writes Numerals in Sequence  
Numerals: 1. 2  2. 3  3. 4  4. 5  5. 6  6. 7  7. 8  8. 9  9. 10 | Stop after the first error. | 10 x 0.5 | 5 / 5 |
| 38   | Academic / Cognitive: Mathematics | 11B Adds and Subtracts  
Equations: 1. 5 + 1 = 6  2. 3 + 2 = 5  3. 5 – 2 = 3  4. 1 + 0 = 1  5. 2 + 1 = 3 | Administer all items. | 4 x 2 | 8 / 8 |
| 40   | Academic / Cognitive: Mathematics | 12B Solves Word Problems  
Problems: 1. (no)  2. (yes)  3. (yes) | Administer all items. | 3 x 1.5 | 4.5 / 6 |

Total Score = 94 / 100

D. Notes/Observations: Very sociable – seemed to enjoy screening process.

E. Next Steps: Score is above gifted/academically talented cutoff of >88. Refer for enrichment classes.

Example of Completed Year One Data Sheet
**STEP 4: ANALYSE RESULTS**

After the Data Sheet has been completed, all screening personnel should meet to review the screening data and to discuss appropriate next steps and recommendations. Data from other personnel, such as the child’s physician, school nurse, speech therapist or social worker, should also be discussed.

**COMPARING A CHILD’S SCORE WITH CUT-OFF SCORES**

Compare the child’s Total Score with the BRIGANCE® cut-off scores below or with your program’s customised cut-off scores.

If you are using the BRIGANCE cut-off scores, compare the child’s Total Score
- to the cut-off scores for detecting children who may be gifted or academically talented,
- to the cut-off scores for detecting children likely to have developmental or academic delays,
- and then to the At-risk Cut-off Scores (for Foundation children only), if applicable.

Note: When using cut-off scores, it is necessary that all assessments within an age-specific screen be administered.

**Table 1. Cut-off Scores for Detecting Children Who May Be Gifted or Academically Talented**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (in years and months)</th>
<th>Cut-off Score</th>
<th>BRIGANCE® Screen III (F &amp; 1) Core Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-0 to 5-5</td>
<td>&gt;88</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6 to 5-11</td>
<td>&gt;91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-0 to 6-5</td>
<td>&gt;88</td>
<td>Year One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-6+</td>
<td>&gt;96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children who score at or above the cut-off scores shown in Table 1 may be gifted or academically talented. Consider referring these children for further assessment for giftedness.

**Table 2. Cut-off Scores for Detecting Children Who Are Likely to Have Developmental or Academic Delays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (in years and months)</th>
<th>Cut-off Score</th>
<th>BRIGANCE® Screen III (F &amp; 1) Core Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-0 to 5-5</td>
<td>&lt;61</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6 to 5-11</td>
<td>&lt;70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-0 to 6-5</td>
<td>&lt;68</td>
<td>Year One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-6+</td>
<td>&lt;86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children who score below the cut-off scores shown in Table 2 may be experiencing delays due to developmental difficulties or possibly due to psychosocial risk factors. Consider referring these children for further assessment.

For a Foundation child, if the child scores below the cut-off score in Table 2, do the following:
1. Determine whether psychosocial risk factors are present. See Table 3 on the next page.
2. If fewer than four risk factors are present, there is a high probability of developmental disabilities. Refer the child for further evaluation.
3. If four or more risk factors are present, determine if the child's score is below the age-appropriate At-risk Cut-off Score in Table 4 on the next page. Initiate a referral if the child’s score is below the appropriate cut-off.

**DETERMINING PRESENCE OF PSYCHOSOCIAL RISK FACTORS**

The presence of psychosocial risk factors in a child’s life can greatly affect the child’s development. The greater the number of psychosocial risk factors, the more likely the child is to perform poorly in school or have delayed development. No one single factor, however, predicts risk or delay, but multiple factors compound the potential effect on a child. The presence of four or more risk factors is associated with steep declines in school achievement and higher probabilities for children to develop difficulties.

When analysing a Foundation child’s screening results, it is important to take into account the presence of risk factors. Use Table 3 on the next page to determine if four or more risk factors are present. If four or more risk factors are present, use the At-risk Cut-off Scores in Table 4 on the next page to inform next steps.
USING THE AT-RISK CUT-OFF SCORES TABLE

For Foundation children scoring below the cut-off scores in Table 2 on page xvii, determine if four or more risk factors are present. (See Table 3 to the left.) If risk factors are present, use the BRIGANCE® Online Management System to compute scores for the specific assessments listed in Table 4 below. (Subscription rates apply.) Alternatively, to hand score, use the assessment information in Table 4 to find the appropriate assessments on the child’s age-specific Data Sheet and total the child’s scores for these assessments.

Compare the child’s score on the select assessments with the age-appropriate At-risk Cut-off Score in Table 4. Initiate a referral if the child’s score is below the At-risk Cut-off Score. Note this in the Next Steps section of the child’s Data Sheet (e.g. Scores below At-risk Cut-off Score – Needs referral).

For more information about referral decisions with at-risk children, see page xx.

Table 3. Psychosocial Risk Factors
(A child is considered at-risk if four or more factors are present.)

- Child lives in a home where English is not the primary language.
- Child lives in a single-caregiver household.
- Four or more children live in the home.
- Child has changed schools frequently (may be helpful to view school records of older siblings), or family has moved more than twice in the past 12 months.
- Child has no prior participation in structured early prevention programs.
- Child has a history of being abused or exposed to domestic or neighbourhood violence.
- Parent(s) have less than a secondary-school education.
- Parent(s) have limited literacy.
- Parent(s) are fewer than 18 years older than the oldest child in the family.
- Parent(s) are unemployed.
- Parent reports rarely or never reading to child.
- Parent reports being or appears to be distressed, sad, lonely, angry, depressed, helpless, numb, substance abusing or lacking in self-esteem. Flattened affect (e.g. rarely smiles or interacts with child) is a likely indicator.
- Parent reports a single concern about child’s behaviour, social, self-help or gross motor skills.
- Parent reports limited social support (e.g. no one else to help care for child or children).
- Parent reports high levels of anxiety (e.g. feeling pressured, stressed or can’t relax).
- Parent is not observed to teach child new things, to talk to child about toys and objects, or to play games with child.

Table 4. At-risk Cut-off Scores for Foundation Core Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments</th>
<th>Total Possible Score (sum of items)</th>
<th>Child’s Age Range (in years and months)</th>
<th>At-risk Cut-off Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic/Cognitive Assessments:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A Knows Personal Information</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>5-0 to 5-5</td>
<td>&lt;38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A Recites Alphabet</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-6 to 5-11</td>
<td>&lt;46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A Sorts Objects (by Size, Colour, Shape)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8A Counts by Rote</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A Matches Quantities with Numerals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A Determines Total of Two Sets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11A Reads Uppercase Letters Alternate – Reads Lowercase Letters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12A Experience with Books and Text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAMPLE
IDENTIFYING STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES
A child's developmental strengths and needs can be identified by administering the Screen III and analysing domain-level results. Specific assessments grouped by developmental domain can inform necessary referrals as well as instructional planning. Domain-level information is especially useful when reporting information to parents.

To view a child's assessment results by domain – Physical Development, Language Development and Academic Skills/Cognitive Development – see the BRIGANCE® Online Management System. (Subscription rates apply.) Alternately, domain scores can be calculated by hand, using the BRIGANCE® Screens III Technical Manual. (See Chapter 4 for more on interpreting screening results and for sample case studies.)

FACTORS THAT MAY IMPACT PERFORMANCE
The development of a child is never a straight line. Each child will experience periods of rapid growth and levelling plateaus. This is normal and should be taken into consideration when evaluating screening results. If, however, the child's score is below the cut-off score for developmental delays (Table 2 on page xvii), it is important to determine factors that may have affected the child's performance, identify areas of need and make appropriate follow-up decisions. Consider the following factors when identifying skill areas of apparent need and when making appropriate follow-up decisions.

• Physical Limitations
  Physical limitations, such as poor vision or hearing, can cause a delay in the development of some skills, which can impact performance. A child screened just prior to the onset of an illness or just after an illness may perform at a lower level than usual. Poor nutrition or an imbalance in body chemistry can cause a child to be lethargic or overactive, resulting in poor performance.

• Poor Testing Conditions
  Uncomfortable room temperature, noise, visual distractions or poor lighting may prevent a child from performing well. In addition, if a child finds the screening atmosphere uncomfortable, feels discouraged or unmotivated, or is tired, the child's performance may suffer. If screening conditions were not optimal, re-screen the child at a later date.

• Language or Cultural Barriers
  A child from a home in which English is not the primary language may not understand what responses are expected. Whenever possible, screening should be conducted by personnel fluent in the primary language of the child and knowledgeable about the child's cultural background.

• Undiagnosed Disabilities or Psychosocial Risk
  Common reasons for poor performance are undiagnosed disabilities or substantial psychosocial risk factors. (See Table 3 on page xviii for more information about psychosocial risk factors.) Record and report relevant observations regarding these concerns and make appropriate referrals for services or additional testing. Questionable or invalid scores should not be recorded in the child's permanent record.

  A second screening may be required if a more valid score can be obtained on another day or in another testing situation. See Screening Children with Special Considerations on page xxiv for more information.

  Note: Formal screening for vision, hearing or speech problems is not included in the Screen III. However, when screening the child, observe for such problems and report them to the appropriate personnel. See the Hearing and Vision Observations on page 63.
STEP 5: IDENTIFY NEXT STEPS

After the screening has been completed, you may choose to do one of the following:

- Screen the child again at a later date if the results seem invalid.
- Refer the child for a more comprehensive assessment if screening results or observations indicate a possible developmental delay, disability or potential academic giftedness.

Once follow-up screening and referral decisions are made, it is important to

- communicate screening results to parents/caregivers.
- monitor progress throughout the year with the BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III and/or the BRIGANCE® Inventory of Early Development III (IED III).
- provide targeted instruction with the IED III and the BRIGANCE® Readiness Activities.
- promote development, especially for those children at risk.

FOLLOW-UP SCREENING

Re-screening is recommended for children who scored low in the first screening. The second screening can be conducted after a period of four to six weeks or after remedial activities have been implemented. Also, children who score significantly lower than expected, possibly due to a “bad day” or illness, can be re-screened at a more appropriate time (possibly sooner than four weeks).

MAKE REFERRALS

Recommendations for referrals may be made based on cut-off scores and on an analysis of the child’s areas of strength or weakness. For example, fine motor or gross motor deficits might indicate the need for an occupational or physical therapy evaluation. Language weakness may indicate the need for a speech-language evaluation. Deficits across multiple domains may suggest the need for an evaluation by a developmental psychologist as well as other professionals. See Chapter 4 of the BRIGANCE® Screens III Technical Manual for additional information on analysing domain scores.

Referral Decisions with At-risk Children

In making referral decisions for Foundation Year children based on scores below BRIGANCE® cut-off scores, it is helpful to consider psychosocial risk factors. The presence of four or more risk factors shown in Table 3 is strongly associated with school difficulties. (See Table 3 on page xviii.)

Although it is acceptable, and even desirable, to refer for evaluation all children who score below the age-appropriate at-risk cut-off score, for teachers and diagnosticians working with large groups of at-risk children, it may be helpful to attempt to distinguish those children who may benefit from a structured learning environment and enrichment experiences from those children who most likely have true disabilities.

Referral Decisions with Bilingual Children

It is important for those making referral decisions to recognise that

- bilingualism often contributes positively to cognitive development.
- bilingualism can cause mild delays in language acquisition in both languages. If, however, acquisition is substantially delayed in both languages, a language disorder should be suspected. Testing in both languages would be necessary to discern the presence of disorder or substantive delay.
- bilingualism does not contribute to native language difficulties in receptive language or articulation. Difficulties in these areas may indicate cognitive delays or language disorders.
- below-cut-off-score performance is rarely due to bilingualism alone. A bilingual child may have the same psychosocial risk factors as English-speaking children.
- because the standardisation of the Screens III included bilingual children, bilingual children who were screened in their native language and perform below average should be referred for further evaluation.
COMMUNICATE SCREENING RESULTS

Because of the significant role parents/caregivers play in their child’s development (as well as the fact that referrals for evaluations require parental consent), parents/caregivers need to be informed of their child’s screening. Explaining screening results to parents requires careful handling. Poorly conducted conferences can produce much ill will and unwillingness to follow through on recommendations. Well-conducted conferences help parents adjust to difficult news and promote an optimistic attitude toward exploring possible reasons for low screening results and seeking effective interventions.

There are two pitfalls in explaining screening test results:
- Overstating the meaning by making a diagnosis
- Understating the meaning by downplaying the potential importance of the results

To avoid these pitfalls, consider these tips.

Tips on Explaining Screening Results
- Talk with parents face-to-face when discussing screening results. Giving results over the phone often leads to distress and denial by parents.
- Before discussing the screening results, ask parents if they have concerns about their child’s learning or behaviour. Begin the conference by acknowledging the parents’ observations. For example, you might say, “I am impressed with how carefully you have observed Mario’s development and by your sense that he may be having some difficulties. In screening him today, I also thought he had more trouble with certain tasks than other children. I want to recommend that he receive more in-depth assessment to see if he really is having trouble and what we can do to help him.”
- When parents have not raised concerns, pause after presenting the results but before making recommendations. Ask questions such as “Have you ever noticed him/her having difficulties with _____?” and “Have you ever been able to watch him/her do _____ and watch how other children do _____?” It is also helpful to invite parents into the classroom so that they can observe their child’s performance in comparison with others.
- Explain the need for further evaluation in a positive way. For example, you might say, “We need to explore the way Sharon learns so that we can better plan for her educational needs.”
- Using phrases like “may be behind other kids”, “seems to be learning more slowly” and “could be having difficulty learning” is effective but not devastating. Avoid using phrases such as “positive results” or “negative results”.
- Acknowledge emotions. When parents appear anxious, it may be helpful to say, “This is hard to hear, isn’t it?” This can enable them to express their fears, move beyond them and follow through with recommendations.
- Avoid false assurances. It is natural to want to comfort parents and assure them that most likely nothing is the matter. However, if screening results reflect a true problem, false assurances may make adjustment more difficult. Simply say something like, “We need to look further to decide if Laurie actually needs more help with learning.”
- Provide contact information, descriptions of services and the purpose of the recommendations. Families who have the necessary information are more likely to follow through with next steps or recommendations. Describe potential services so that parents can visualise their child and themselves participating.
- Put recommendations in writing. Written information affirms the findings and recommendations and allows parents to share with other family members. Many programs use a form letter like the following example.

Dear [name of Parent[s]/Caregiver[s]],

This week, we administered the BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III (F & 1) in our class. The Screen III measures language skills and early academic skills and also how well your child draws, writes and uses his/her arms and legs to do things. Because [child’s name] seemed to have trouble in some areas, we feel that further testing would be helpful in educational planning for [child’s name]. We recommend further testing to discover the best ways we can be of help to your child.

Specifically, we recommend the following evaluations: (Write referrals below.)

We would also like to know if you could: (Write referrals that parents/caregivers must seek on their own.)
MONITOR PROGRESS

Monitoring a child's progress is critical within and across the early years. Use one or both methods below to measure and report progress during the year.

Administer the age-appropriate screen at midyear or end of year as a post test to measure progress over time. (Be sure to recalculate the rounded chronological age when re-screening to determine the correct screen to use.) Once a follow-up screening is complete, age equivalents can be used to track progress.

Age equivalent scores (AEs) are often reported to give an indication of a child's performance compared to that of same-age children in the standardisation sample. To monitor progress with AEs, first derive the AE for each skill area of interest (e.g. Total Score, Physical Development Domain) for at least two points in time (e.g. the child's initial screening and follow-up screening). Then plot the AEs on a graph to see if the child's progress is age appropriate.


Use the Inventory of Early Development III (IED III) to provide more comprehensive ongoing assessment throughout the year. Once initial screening has been conducted with the Screen III, you can use the IED III to monitor the child's progress and to support more in-depth and targeted assessment at appropriate intervals throughout the program year. The assessments in the Screen III correlate directly with the assessments in the IED III, allowing the teacher to pinpoint areas of strength and weakness, optimise instructional planning and measure developmental progress.

To use the IED III to show progress in areas of developmental weakness:
1. Identify broad areas of weakness, using the assessments in the Screen III.
2. Next, identify specific skills in need of further evaluation.
3. Administer the correlating assessments of prerequisite skills and related tasks from the IED III.
4. Use the assessment items to plan developmentally appropriate instruction and to show progress.

To use the IED III to show progress in areas of developmental strength:
1. Identify broad areas of strength, using the assessments in the Screen III.
2. Next, identify specific skills in need of further evaluation.
3. Administer the correlating assessments of higher-level skills from the IED III.
4. Use the assessment items to plan developmentally appropriate instruction and to show progress.

The BRIGANCE® Online Management System supports progress monitoring, using results from the Screen III and IED III. (Subscription rates apply.)

PROVIDE TARGETED INSTRUCTION

Screening results can be used in conjunction with the Inventory of Early Development III (IED III). The IED III is a comprehensive set of developmental assessments that are designed to support instructional planning. Each assessment includes instructional objectives that may be customised for each child.

Once instructional objectives have been set, the BRIGANCE® Readiness Activities can provide targeted, individualised instruction that is correlated to relevant assessments in the IED III. The Readiness Activities also includes helpful objectives, effective teaching strategies, suggested reading lists and reproducible letters to families.
PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT IN AT-RISK CHILDREN

Typical child development is influenced by many factors. One of the greatest factors affecting child development is the evidence of psychosocial disadvantages or risk factors. (For more information about psychosocial risk, see Table 3 on page xviii.)

Foundation children who are considered “at risk” tend to score below the Screen III age-appropriate cut-off scores. Although most children who score below these cut-off scores have undetected disabilities or significant developmental delays, some children, particularly those with multiple psychosocial risk factors who have recently been enrolled in primary school, may catch up when given additional exposure and instruction.

In addition to supporting these children in the classroom, children with psychosocial risk factors will also benefit from the following:

1. **Monitor academic progress and target instruction** with the BRIGANCE® Inventory of Early Development III (IED III). (See page xxii for details.)

2. **Initiate prompt referrals** for evaluations and services when the child is not making progress.

3. **Encourage parents to read to their children.** The greatest predictor of parental reading is the presence of books in the home. Send home lists of age-appropriate books that can be found at a local library. If possible, provide books for families who need them.

4. **Encourage parents to participate in classroom activities.** Inviting parents to read to the class, tell stories or sing songs, and giving them guidance on how to do this can help parents learn to respond appropriately to children’s conversations.

5. **Encourage participation in recreational activities** such as sport, music, scouting. High achievement in any area increases the likelihood of a child continuing in school and improves self-concept.
Screening Children with Special Considerations

It is often necessary to screen children who are bilingual or children who have known exceptionalities to determine their skill levels, especially in areas of development that may not be affected by any of these conditions. For example, screening results may reveal that a child with motor impairment has delays in language development.

When assessing children with special considerations, accommodations may be necessary. It is important for administrators to recognise the difference between accommodations and modifications and how to use accommodations appropriately when administering assessments. This is particularly important when considering standardised assessment to avoid invalidating the results.

**Accommodations** are alterations for administering the assessments that enable children to more accurately demonstrate their knowledge.

Accommodations
- permit alternate test settings, testing formats, timing and test scheduling, and means of responding in order to demonstrate a child’s true mastery of a skill.
- are not methods to bypass standardised scoring principles.

Accommodations are designed to reduce the effect of language limitations and other disabilities and, therefore, increase the probability that the same target construct is measured for all children. Accommodations provide fairness, not advantage, for children who have disabilities, so that the child is assessed on a level playing field with other children. Appropriate accommodations used should always be recorded in the Notes section of the child’s Data Sheet.

In contrast, **modifications** are changes to the actual content of the assessment (for instance, changing the phrasing of a question). Modifications cannot be used under any circumstances when standardised scores are required. Modifying the assessment content undermines the standardisation process and comparability of performance, thereby invalidating normative scores for a child.

When evaluating children with special considerations, use the following general strategies (in addition to the specific strategies that follow).

- Keep a record of the accommodations implemented.
- Be aware of the test items and the way certain accommodations may impact performance and scoring.
- Be aware of the child’s strengths that will support reliable responses or those behaviours that may hinder reliable responses.
- Use information from families to identify what may act as a motivator to facilitate the child’s optimal performance.

**BILINGUAL AND NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN**

The following accommodations are designed to help bilingual children demonstrate skills they have mastered.

- Administer assessments to children who are bilingual or non-English speaking in their primary language – the language spoken most at home. Even children who speak some English perform best when assessments are administered in the child’s native tongue.
- If the examiner is not fluent in the child’s language, an interpreter will be needed during the assessment for gathering parent information and for interpreting results.
- A professional interpreter should evaluate a child’s articulation and syntax skills in the child’s native language.
- When interviewing parents/caregivers, consider their possibly limited ability to understand and communicate in English.
CHILDREN WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

The following accommodations are appropriate when administering the Screen III and may be considered, as needed, for children with exceptionalities.

GENERAL ACCOMMODATIONS

• Allow Extended Time: The assessments in the Screen III are untimed. A child should be allowed to use as much time as necessary to complete the assessment. If a time limit is provided for a specific item (e.g., Stands on one foot for ten seconds), the time limit should be followed. Otherwise, allow as much time as needed.

• Organise Appropriate Screening Session(s):
  – Separate Space: Conduct the screening in a separate, quiet room.
  – Frequent Breaks: Although conducting an age-appropriate screen should take only 10–15 minutes, allow break times, if necessary, for the child to maintain focus and sufficient energy.

If there is any doubt about how an accommodation might affect the validity of the assessment results, consult with a specialist in the child’s area of exceptionality or with someone experienced in administering standardised assessments, such as a school psychologist or clinical psychologist.

STRATEGIES FOR ASSESSING SKILL MASTERY OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONALITIES

The general accommodations described earlier may be helpful for assessing children with a variety of exceptionalities and should be considered as needed. Additional accommodations that are relevant for children with specific exceptionalities are included below.

Children with Motor Impairment

Possible strategies:
• Allow the child to use adaptive seating or other adaptive devices unless the assessment is explicitly testing gross motor or fine motor skills.
• Allow the child to formulate a verbal response before requiring a written response, whenever possible.
• Allow the use of different writing products (not just an HB pencil).
• Allow the use of scratch paper.

Although it is tempting to want to give credit for gross motor skills to a child who is compensating effectively for motor impairment (e.g., uses a wheelchair), it is important to remember that the gross motor assessments are designed to measure actual motor skills. Because such children may still be involved in physical therapy, examiners will need to rely on results from the unadapted administration of the Screen III in order to monitor progress.

Children with Vision Impairment or Blindness

Possible strategies:
• Read items to the child (with the exception of any items that require the child to demonstrate specified reading skills).
• Provide magnification devices for visual stimuli, such as pictures.
• Provide additional lighting, as needed.
• Reduce visual distractions by covering additional items on a child page.

Children with Hearing Impairment or Deafness

Possible strategies:
• Allow the child to use a communication system or assistive technology if used in regular classroom work. (NOTE: Before screening, become familiar with the way the child communicates and receives information to ensure the most effective strategies are put in place.)
• Provide a sign language interpreter, if needed.

Children with Severe Speech Impairment

Possible strategies:
• Enlist the assistance of someone who is familiar with the child’s speech patterns (e.g., a parent/caregiver) to help interpret the child’s communication.
• Allow the child to use a communication system or assistive technology if used in regular classroom work. (NOTE: Before screening, become familiar with the way the child communicates and receives information to ensure the most effective strategies are put in place.)
• Allow alternate response methods, such as pointing or drawing, when acceptable and when these alternatives will not compromise the construction of an assessment item. For instance, if the assessment specifically requires that the child respond using expressive language, it would invalidate the standardisation to have the child respond receptively (e.g., by holding up the correct number of fingers instead of stating the number when asked how old he/she is).
Children with Emotional Disturbance and Behaviour Issues

Possible strategies:

- Consult with someone who has experience with children with emotional disturbance, such as a school psychologist, clinical psychologist or someone who has worked with the child. Ask specifically about the duration and intensity of the child’s behaviours and solicit suggestions for working with the child to ensure optimum outcomes.
- Before screening, prepare the child for the assessment process. Answer any questions and attempt to dispel any anxiety that the child may have.
- Foster an assessment environment that will support positive and appropriate behaviours.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Developmental Disorders

Possible strategies:

- Before screening, let the child know about the upcoming assessment session so that the child is aware of the change in his/her usual schedule. Tell the child what the assessment session will entail. If the child has questions, answer them and attempt to dispel any anxiety that the child may have about the assessment process.
- If the child has limited verbal skills or is non-verbal, determine the child’s method of communication, and consider using the accommodations for children with hearing or speech impairments described on the previous page.
- Provide a list or pictorial representation of the assessments to be administered (then cross them off as you go), particularly for a child who is used to using a visual schedule.
- Allow alternate response methods, such as pointing or drawing, when these alternatives will not compromise the construction of an assessment item. For instance, if the assessment specifically requires that the child respond using expressive language, it would invalidate the standardisation to have the child respond receptively (e.g. by holding up the correct number of fingers instead of stating the number when asked how old he/she is).
- Reduce visual distractions by covering additional items on a child page.
- Use tangible or edible reinforcers rather than social ones.
- Arrange seating that will discourage the child from leaving the work area.
- Avoid making assumptions about one skill area based on another. Children with developmental disorders often have unexpected areas of strength or weakness.

Children with Traumatic Brain Injury, Significant Health Problems or Multiple Disabilities

The use of any strategy for the specific disabilities listed as well as the general accommodations in the previous section can be used for a child with traumatic brain injury, health problems or multiple disabilities as needed.

Children with Possible Giftedness and Academic Talent

Possible strategies:

- Cover the examiner’s directions (even though upside down) to prevent the child from reading answers. Children with academic talent often have well-developed reading skills.
- Consider asking additional questions (e.g. “What else do we call this?”) if the child gives a creative, but pertinent, response to an item. (The high degree of creativity exhibited by some gifted children may lead them to produce a range of alternative responses to items.)
- After administering the age-appropriate Core Assessments, you may wish to administer the age-appropriate Supplemental Assessments. (See page 42 for more information about the Supplemental Assessments.)

Although the Screen III provides accommodation strategies for children with exceptionalities, use professional judgment when determining which strategies are appropriate for an individual child while ensuring the validity of the assessment is not compromised.

Brigance Screens and Data Sheets Price List

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