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

Explore this chart to determine which test best meets the needs of the young children you serve.

PLS·5 Preschool Language Scales—Fifth Edition	**CELF Preschool 3** Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals—PRESCHOOL
What are the referral questions?	
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 domains can be considered language strengths and weaknesses?
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 will limit the child's ability to manage the language demands of the classroom.
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 at home.	In-depth assessment of semantics, morphology, and syntax, pragmatics and early literacy skills.
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. PLS-5 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 at a level where the child is 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 mainstream classroom settings due to limited language or social interaction skills	CELF Preschool-3 can be used to assess children with mild to moderate delays. CELF Preschool-3 provides more detailed information about a child's language skills when the child: • Uses morphological and syntactic forms somewhat below age-peers • Exhibits deficits in one or two language domains (e.g, morphology and/or semantics) • Has difficulty mastering grade-level curriculum requirements in a mainstream classroom with or without adaptations • Has difficulty participating in classroom activities due to atypical social interaction skills
Which speech and language skills are tested?	
PLS-5 provides a broad survey of pre-linguistic skills through early literacy skills (plus an articulation screening) that includes: • Attention to environment and people • Gesture • Play • Vocal development • Social communication • Vocabulary • Concepts • Morphology • Syntax • Integrative language skills (e.g., analogies, inferences)	CELF Preschool-3 is an in-depth assessment of preschool- and Grade K-1 language skills in the areas of: • Vocabulary • Concepts • Following directions • Word relationships • Morphology • Syntax • Pragmatics • Phonological awareness • Pre-literacy

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| PLS·5 | CELF PRESCHOOL 3 |

How do the subtests compare?

Two norm-referenced scales:
· Auditory Comprehension
· Expressive Communication

Supplemental measures:
· Articulation Screener (norm-based criterion scores)
· Home Communication Questionnaire (descriptive)
· Language Sample Checklist

10 norm-referenced subtests with normative scores including Phonological Awareness:
· Sentence Comprehension
· Word Structure
· Expressive Vocabulary
· Following Directions
· Recalling Sentences
· Basic Concepts
· Word Classes
· Phonological Awareness
· Descriptive Pragmatics Profile
· Preliteracy Rating Scale

Criterion referenced and/or descriptive measures:
· Connected Speech Sample
· Pragmatics Activities Checklist

How do I elicit language behaviours?

Interactive, play based tasks using manipulatives, and simple picture pointing and question-answering formats. (one to six subitems per developmental skill tested)

Child-friendly, but highly structured tasks. (15 to 24 test items per subtest)

How similar is the normative group to my population?

Year normative sample collected: 2010–2011

Race/ethnicity
· 53.7% White; 46.3% Non-white

Parent education
· 40.7*% Parent Education: 12 years or less
· 59.4*% Parent Education: 13+ years
*May not add up to 100% due to rounding

Year normative sample collected: 2019–2020

Race/ethnicity
· 56% White; 44% Non-white

Parent education
· 29% Parent Education: 12 years or less
· 71% Parent Education: 13+ years
See the CELF Preschool-3 Technical Summary for detailed information

Why is it that PLS-5 and CELF Preschool 3 can result in different scores when the same domains are being tested?

- PLS-5 is a play-based assessment for children at the younger ages, and provides many more verbal cues and supports than CELF-Preschool 3. CELF Preschool-3, while child-friendly, has more structured tasks and provides fewer cues and supports.

- PLS-5 provides credit for interpersonal communication-based tasks; CELF Preschool-3 normative scores are based on subtests focusing on semantics, morphology, syntax, and pragmatics.

Learn more at **pearsonclinical.ca/celfpreschool3**.

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