



***Adaptive Behavior Profiles in
Autism Spectrum Disorders***

Celine A. Saulnier, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Neurodevelopmental Assessment & Consulting Services

Author, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Third Edition





Disclosures for Dr. Saulnier



- Royalties:
 - Wiley, Inc.
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Learning Objectives



This session will help participants:

- Define adaptive behavior & differentiate adaptive behavior from cognition or ability
- Identify common profiles of adaptive functioning in ASD for individuals with and without cognitive impairment
- Discuss how Vineland-3 results can inform treatment goals to enhance adaptive functioning

Pearson Clinical Assessment Disclosure

Pearson Clinical Assessment, the sponsor of this webinar, develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for educators, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and psychologists.

The presenter will cover information that pertains to the effective and appropriate use of the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales-3rd Edition, developed by Pearson Clinical Assessment.

No other assessments will be discussed during this presentation



DSM-5 Criteria for ASD (299.0): Social Communication & Interaction



- A. Persistent deficits in social communication and interaction across multiple contexts, as manifested by the following *currently or by history*:
1. Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity
 2. Deficits in nonverbal communication behaviors used for social interaction
 3. Deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships, ranging, e.g., from difficulties adjusting behavior to suit various social contexts; to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends; to absence of interest in peers



DSM-5 Criteria for ASD (299.0): Restricted & Repetitive Behaviors



- B. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, and activities, as manifested by at least TWO of the following, *currently or by history*:
1. Stereotyped or repetitive speech, motor movements, or use of objects
 2. Excessive adherence to routines, ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior, or excessive resistance to sameness
 3. Highly restricted, fixated interests
 4. Hyper- or hypo-reactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of behavior



DSM-5 Criteria for ASD (299.0):



- C. Symptoms must be present in early childhood (but may not become fully manifest until social demands exceed limited capacities)
- D. Symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of current functioning
- E. Disturbances are not better explained by intellectual disability or global developmental delay



Clinical Specifiers for ASD



1. With or without accompanying intellectual impairment (*this is different from ID*)
2. With or without accompanying language impairment (*no intelligible speech; phrase speech; fluent speech*)
3. Associated with a known medical or genetic condition or environmental factor
4. Associated with another neurodevelopmental, mental, or behavioral disorder (*e.g., ADHD*)
5. With Catatonia



Severity Levels for ASD:



- **Level 3: Requiring Very Substantial Support**

- Severe deficits in verbal & nonverbal communication
- RRBs markedly interfere with functioning in all contexts

- **Level 2: Requiring Substantial Support**

- Marked deficits in verbal & nonverbal communication
- Social impairments apparent even with supports in place
- RRBs are obvious & interfere with functioning in some contexts

- **Level 1: Requiring Support**

- Social communication deficits cause noticeable impairments without supports in place
- RRBs significantly interfere in one or more contexts
- Problems with organization and planning hamper independence



Current Epidemiological Statistics

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/addm



IN THE GENERAL POPULATION:

- 1 in 54 (1.85%)
- Male-Female Ratio:
 - 4 times higher in boys
- Median Age of Diagnosis: 4-5 years
 - Much later for disadvantaged populations
- When ASD can be reliably diagnosed:
 - 18-24 months when diagnosed by experienced clinicians
- Comorbid Intellectual Disability:
 - 33% with ID (with almost 50% having average to above average IQs)
 - 84% of 4-year-old children received an evaluation by age 3

IN SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH ASD:

- ASD: 1 in 5 (~20% risk)
- Broader Autism Phenotype ("shadow symptoms"): 1 in 5
- Non-ASD developmental delays: 1 in 10



The Autism Spectrum by Cognition



Levels of Cognitive Functioning



Cognitive Impairment

Language Impairment

Seizures

Medical Comorbidities

In-tact Cognition

In-tact Language

Asperger Syndrome

Psychiatric Comorbidities





Comprehensive Evaluations for ASD



- Screeners
- Assessment of Developmental/Cognitive & Speech, Language, & Communication Skills
- *Assessment of Adaptive Behavior*
- Diagnostic History
- Diagnostic Assessment
- Record Review



Assessing for Intellectual Disability



- Deficits in cognitive functioning (“scores of approximately two standard deviations or more below the mean”)
- Deficits in adaptive functioning (e.g., communication, daily life, social participation, and independent living)
- Onset in the developmental period

- Severity Levels: *Defined by adaptive functioning rather than IQ level*
 - Mild
 - Moderate ←
 - Severe
 - Profound

Now Keyed into Adaptive Functioning/
Level of Independence
Rather than Cognitive Level



Developing behavioural indicators for intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour for ICD-11 disorders of intellectual development

M. J. Tassé,¹ G. Balboni,² P. Navas,³ R. Luckasson,⁴ M. A. Nygren,⁵ C. Belacchi,⁶ S. Bonichini,⁷ G. M. Reed^{8,9} & C. S. Kogan¹⁰



M. J. Tassé *et al.* • **Behavioural indicators**

Table 2 Behavioural indicators of intellectual functioning

Severity level	Early childhood (Determination of severity should be reassessed after appropriate educational services and supports are provided)	Childhood and adolescence (Determination of severity should be reassessed after appropriate educational services and supports are provided)	Adulthood (Determination of severity should be reassessed after appropriate educational services and supports are provided)
Mild	<p>By the end of this developmental period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most will develop language skills and be able to communicate needs. Delays in the acquisition of language skills are typical and, once acquired, are frequently less developed than typically developing peers (e.g. more limited vocabulary) 	<p>During this developmental period, there is evidence of the emergence of or presence of the abilities listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most can communicate effectively. • Most can tell or identify their age. • Most can initiate/invite others to participate in an activity. • Most can communicate about past, present and future events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most can communicate fluently. • Many can tell or identify their birth date. • Most can initiate/invite others to participate in an activity. • Most can communicate about past, present and future events. • Most can attend to and follow up to three-step instructions. • Most can identify different denominations of money (e.g. coins)



Differentiating Cognition from Adaptive Behavior



- **Cognitive ability** is generally defined as an individual's repertoire of skills that are either innate or acquired.
 - Skills that an individual is *capable* of performing
- **Adaptive Behavior** is generally defined as performance of skills that are necessary for personal and social sufficiency.
 - Skills an individual does perform, independently, in daily activities and routines
 - It's the "does do" not the "can do"!



Characteristics of Adaptive Behavior



- **Age-related**
- Defined by the **expectations/standards** of others
- Defined by **typical performance**, not ability
- **Modifiable** (can change over time)
- **Adequate** is the appropriate goal





The Importance of the Clinical Interview

- Edgar Doll (Vineland Social Maturity Scale) and Sara Sparrow (Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales) both believed that a **semi-structured interview** between a professional and a caregiver provides more accurate and comprehensive information about adaptive behavior than a checklist.
- Helps to differentiate the “**can do**” from the “**does do**”
- The test items **are not** read to the respondent; rather, open-ended questioning is used to probe for the true frequency and independent application of behaviors.
- Involvement of a trained interviewer protects against potential sources of inaccuracy
 - Misunderstanding of item content/scoring rules
 - Deliberate or unintentional over- or under-reporting



Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales

(Sparrow, Balla, & Cicchetti, 1984 & 2005; Sparrow, Cicchetti, & Saulnier, 2016)



Pearson

Domains of Functioning (birth – 90 years)

- Communication:
 - ♦ *Receptive*
 - ♦ *Expressive*
 - ♦ *Written*
- Daily Living:
 - ♦ *Personal*
 - ♦ *Domestic*
 - ♦ *Community*
- Socialization:
 - ♦ *Interpersonal*
 - ♦ *Play/Leisure*
 - ♦ *Coping*
- Motor:
 - ♦ *Fine Motor*
 - ♦ *Gross Motor*
- *Maladaptive Behavior Index*

Vineland-3
Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales™—Third Edition

Comprehensive Interview Form

Examinee's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____ Examinee's Birth Date: _____
(mo, year, day) (mo, day, year) (mo, day, year)

Examinee's Age: _____ Examinee's Sex: Female Male Respondent's Name: _____

Respondent's Relationship to the Examinee: Mother Father Other Interviewer's Name: _____

DIRECTIONS

Complete instructions for administering this form are provided in Chapter 2 of the Vineland-3 Manual. The Manual also includes a list of suggested interview questions and scoring criteria for the items in Appendix G, which you may wish to have available when conducting the interview.

Keep in mind that the Coping Skills subdomain does not begin until age 2, the Written, Domestic, and Community subdomains do not begin until age 3, and the optional Maladaptive Behavior domain does not begin until age 5.

Some items use a different scoring system: 2 = Yes, 0 = No. This is indicated in the booklet.

If the respondent has not had the opportunity to observe a behavior, ask him/her to estimate a score for that item. In addition to marking the item score, also check the box to the right of the item score, in the column labeled **Check if Est.**

If the individual performed a behavior when he/she was younger, but has now outgrown it, circle 2. Do not check the Estimated box.

Some items include a Scoring Tip, indicated with the symbol . Use the tips to help you score those items.

SCORING THE ITEMS

Score each item 2, 1, or 0 as follows:

Circle 2 if, when the behavior is needed or appropriate, the individual usually performs it without help or prompting (or if he/she performed the behavior when younger, but has now outgrown it).

Circle 1 if, when the behavior is needed or appropriate, the individual sometimes performs it without help or prompting.

Circle 0 if the individual never performs the behavior, or never performs it without help or prompting. Whether he/she hasn't learned the behavior, is not physically able to perform it, is not expected or allowed to perform it, or chooses not to perform it, circle 0.

BASAL AND CEILING RULES

A basal is established when there are four consecutive items with scores of 2. A ceiling is established when there are four consecutive items with scores of 0. Continue administering Interview Topics until you have established a basal and a ceiling, and all items between the basal and ceiling have been scored. If there is no basal, you must score all items from the first item in the subdomain up to the ceiling. If there is no ceiling, you must score all items from the last item in the subdomain back to the basal.

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1. Interview Form
2. Parent/Caregiver Form
3. Teacher Form

Overview of the Vineland-3

(Sparrow, Cicchetti, & Saulnier, 2016)



	Interview Form		Parent/Caregiver Form		Teacher Form	
	Comprehensive	Domain-Level	Comprehensive	Domain-Level	Comprehensive	Domain-Level
Core Adaptive Scores	3 Domains 9 Subdomains Overall ABC	3 Domains Overall ABC	3 Domains 9 Subdomains Overall ABC	3 Domains Overall ABC	3 Domains 9 Subdomains Overall ABC	3 Domains Overall ABC
Optional Domains	Motor Skills Maladaptive Behavior	Motor Skills Maladaptive Behavior	Motor Skills Maladaptive Behavior	Motor Skills Maladaptive Behavior	Motor Skills Maladaptive Behavior	Motor Skills Maladaptive Behavior
Age Range	Birth to 90+	3 to 90+	Birth to 90+	3 to 90+	3 to 21	3 to 21
Total Item Count (typically not all are completed)	502	195	502	180	333	149
Completion Time (minutes)	35 - 40	23 - 27	20 - 25	10 - 15	15 - 20	8 - 10



Profiles of Adaptive Behavior in ASD



Historically

Adaptive skills are often delayed & found to fall significantly below age & IQ in ASD

Volkmar et al., 1987; Carter et al., 1998; Klin et al., 2007

More Recently

Standard scores are found to be higher than IQ in children with intellectual disability & ASD

Tilman et al., 2019; Kanne et al., 2010; Perry et al., 2009

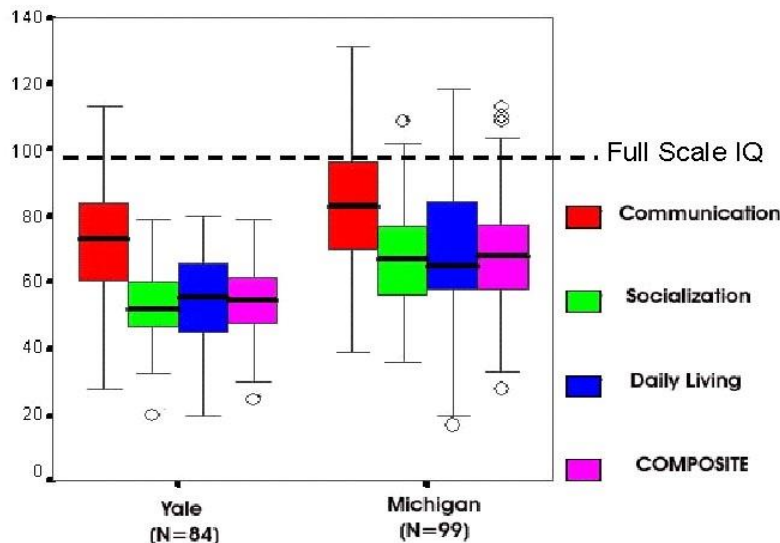
Of Concern

The gap between cognitive ability and adaptive functioning appears to widen with age

Klin et al., 2007; Saulnier & Klin, 2007; Kanne et al., 2010

Social and Communication Abilities and Disabilities in Higher Functioning Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: The Vineland and the ADOS

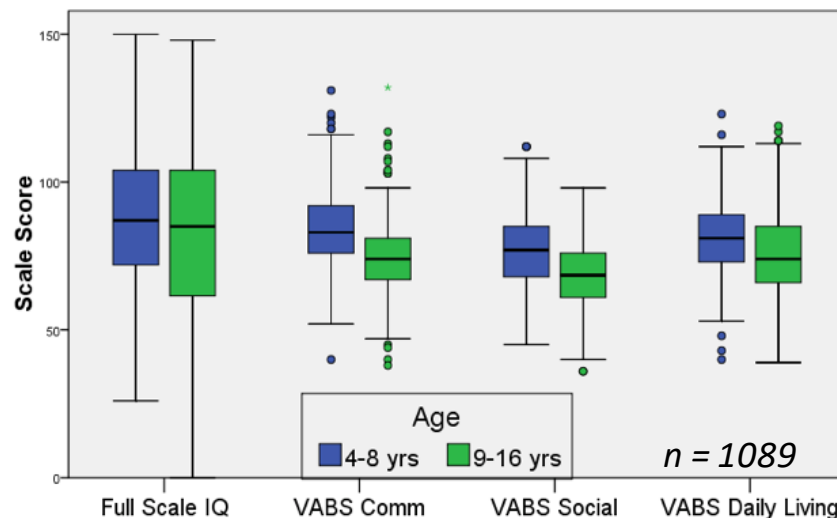
Ami Klin · Celine A. Saulnier · Sara S. Sparrow ·
Domenic V. Cicchetti · Fred R. Volkmar ·
Catherine Lord



Adaptive skills fall significantly below cognition in 2 independent samples of boys ages 8 to 18 years

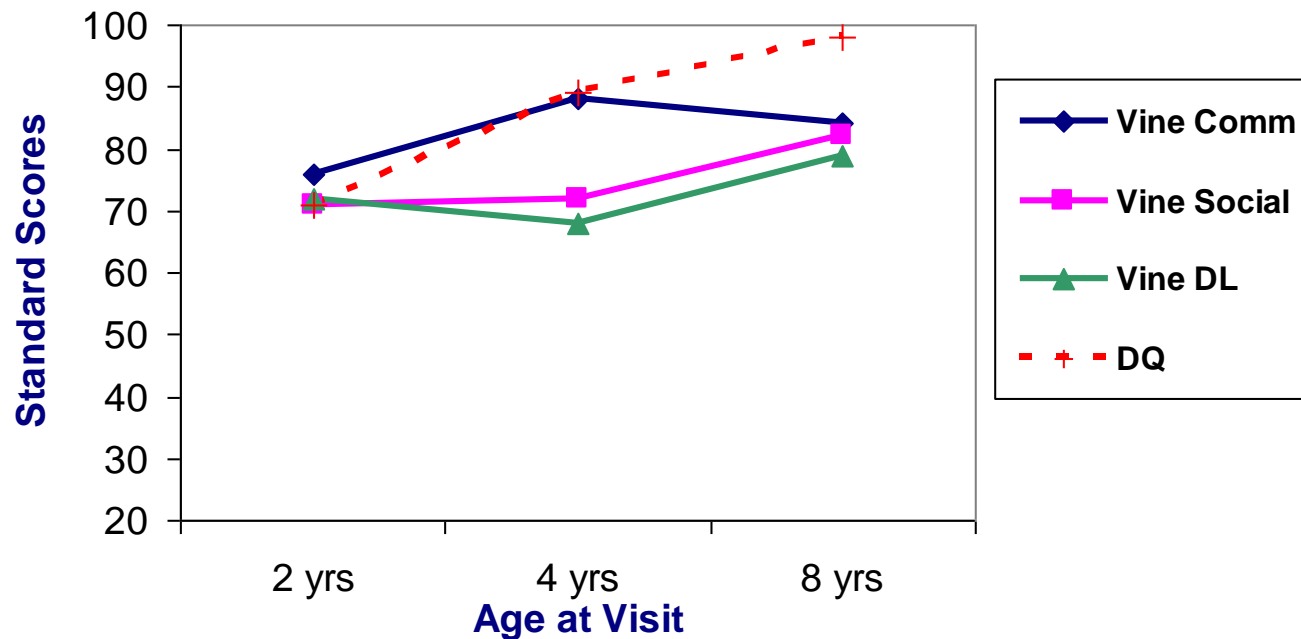
The Role of Adaptive Behavior in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Implications for Functional Outcome

Stephen M. Kanne · Andrew J. Gerber ·
Linda M. Quirnbach · Sara S. Sparrow ·
Domenic V. Cicchetti · Celine A. Saulnier



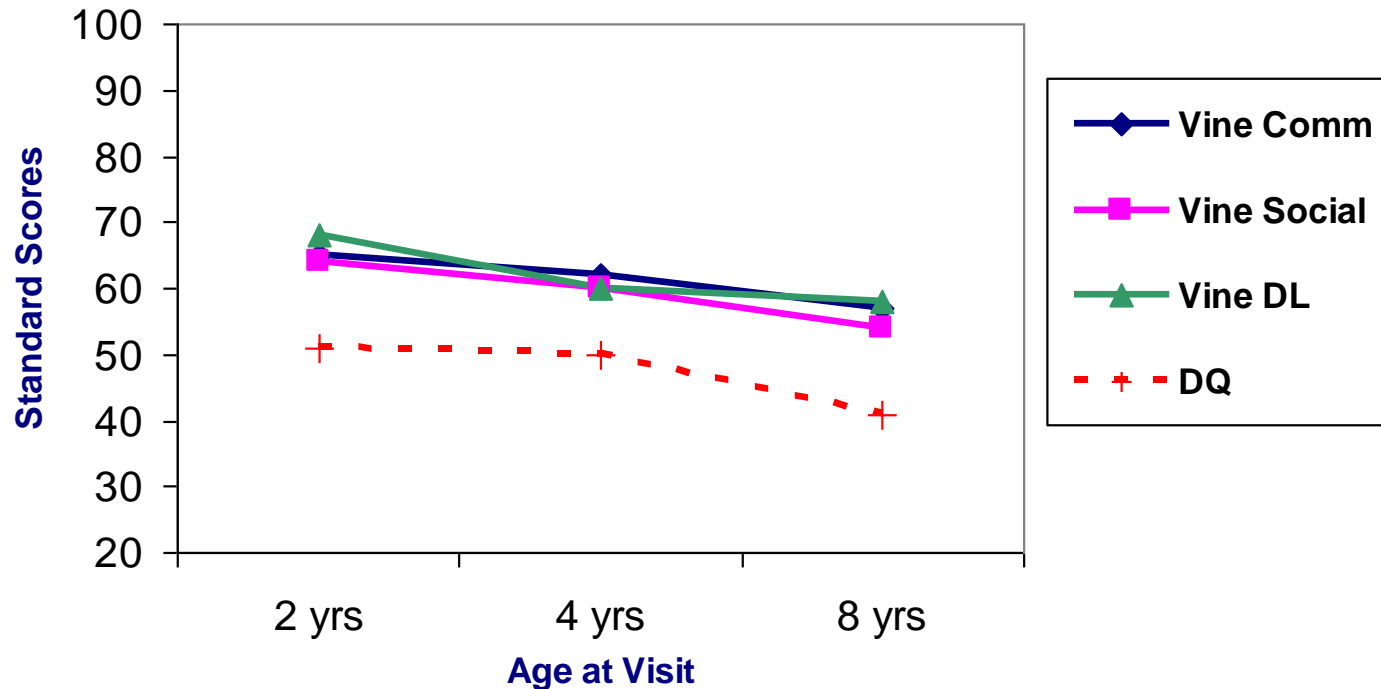
Older age group has significantly lower adaptive skills across all Vineland domains than the younger age group

Longitudinal Gap between Cognitive Potential and Adaptive Behavior – High Cognition



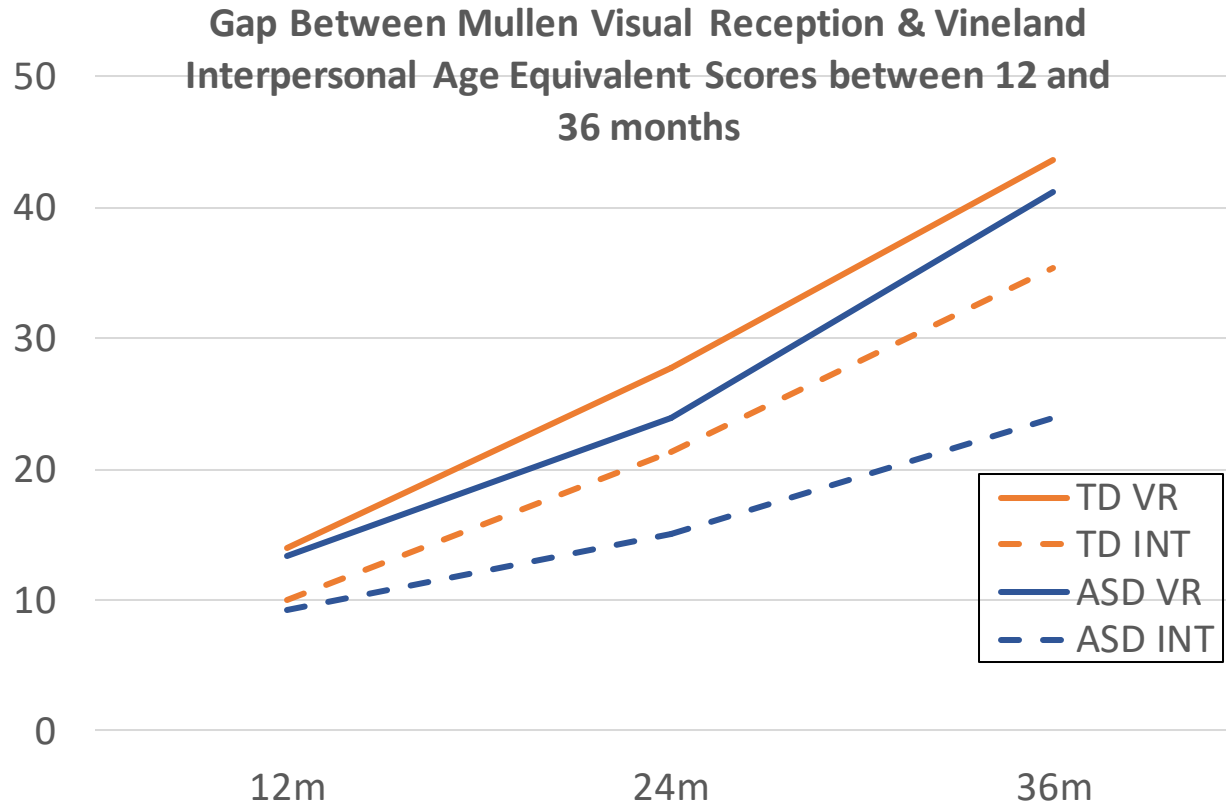
(Saulnier, Chawarska, & Klin, *IMFAR* 2011)

Longitudinal Gap between Cognitive Potential and Adaptive Behavior – Low Cognition



(Saulnier, Chawarska, & Klin, *IMFAR* 2011)

When the Gap Begins



Infants who develop ASD:	n=16
Typically Developing (TD) Infants:	n=34

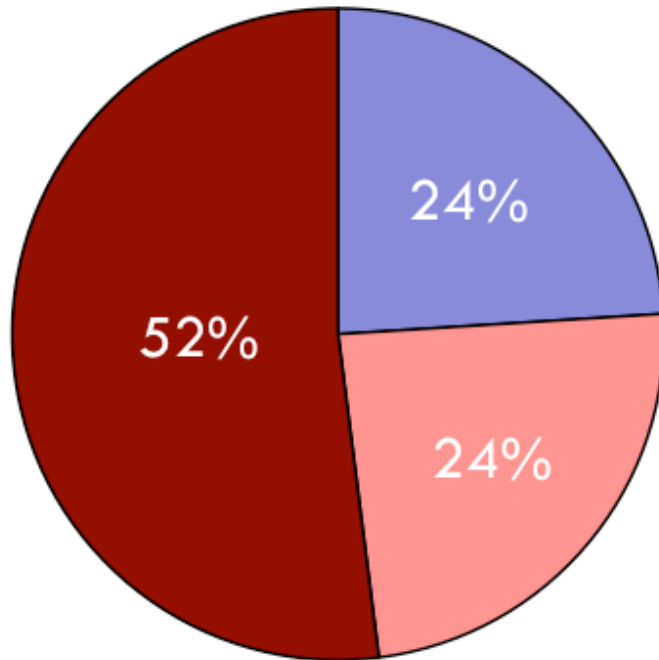
Social Outcomes in Mid- to Later Adulthood Among Individuals Diagnosed With Autism and Average Nonverbal IQ as Children

Patricia Howlin, Ph.D., Philippa Moss, Ph.D., Sarah Savage, Ph.D., Michael Rutter, M.D.

Outcome assessed by:

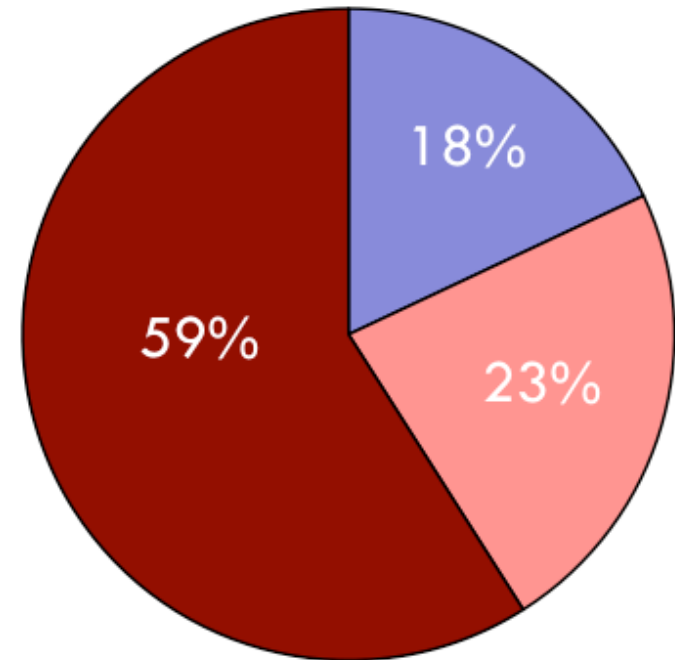
- *Educational Attainments*
- *Residential Status*
- *Friendships*
- *Social Functioning*
- *Occupation*

First Adult Assessment - Age 26 yrs



■ Good/Very Good ■ Fair ■ Poor/Very Poor

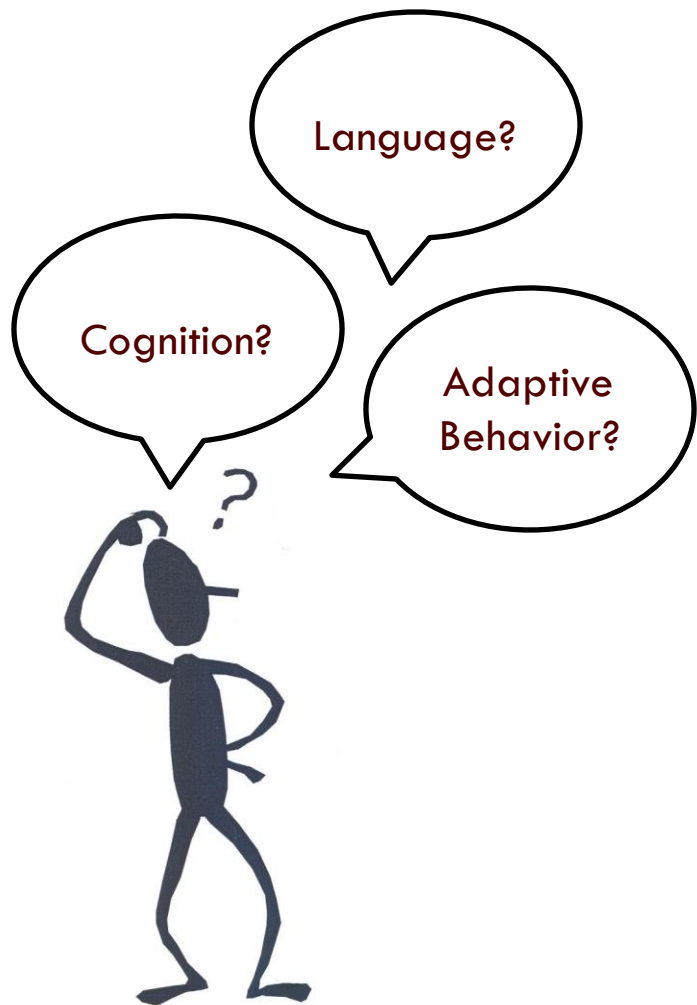
Second Adult Assessment – Age 46 yrs



■ Good/Very Good ■ Fair ■ Poor/Very Poor



What Predicts Good Outcome?



- Best predictors of good outcome = intact cognition and functional language by age 5
Paul & Cohen, 1984; Howlin et al., 2004

- Many adults fail to achieve independent levels of employment and living, and struggle to develop successful relationships

*Billstedt, Gillberg, & Gillberg, 2005;
Eaves & Ho, 2008; Howlin et al., 2004*

- Adaptive skills may be a better predictor of positive adult outcome than IQ and language level, alone

Farley et al., 2009




*Do cognition & speech, alone,
really indicate
“high functioning”?*





Original Article



The misnomer of ‘high functioning autism’: Intelligence is an imprecise predictor of functional abilities at diagnosis

Autism
1–12
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DOI: 10.1177/1362361319852831
journals.sagepub.com/home/aut


Gail A Alvares¹ , Keely Bebbington¹, Dominique Cleary¹,
Kiah Evans¹, Emma J Glasson¹, Murray T Maybery¹, Sarah Pillar¹,
Mirko Uljarević² , Kandice Varcin¹, John Wray³ and
Andrew JO Whitehouse¹



Optimal Outcome

(Fein et al., 2013, *JCPP*)



'Optimal Outcomes' Rare but Real in Autism

Share 46 Tweet 4 Google+ 0 Email 0 LinkedIn Share 2

Study confirms that a tiny subset of children entirely overcome disabilities; intensive early therapy may be key

December 01, 2013

A "Top Ten Advances in Autism Research 2013" Selection
See all the year's "Top Ten" [here](#).



RESEARCHING THE LOSS OF AUTISM DIAGNOSES

Psychologist Deborah Fein PhD has probably done more to document this phenomenon than anyone. She first noticed that some of the children she was following no longer met the criteria for autism. "I was definitely very surprised," she recalled. Like most clinicians, she believed autism was a lifelong condition. For her research, she sought out other children who also left their autism diagnosis behind.

She and her co-researchers meticulously documented the diagnoses of 34 children with autism, and their loss of those diagnoses and autistic symptoms. They tested their communication, reading comprehension, academics, language, and social abilities, even their ability to recognize faces. They compared them to two other groups, 44 people with "high-functioning autism," and 34 people who developed typically, called controls. High-functioning autism usually refers to autism with average or "normal" intelligence.

ian interactive
autism network
LINKING THE AUTISM COMMUNITY AND RESEARCHERS





Online Administration of the Vineland-3 Q-Global



- Options for online completion of all 3 forms – **COMPUTER OR TABLET**
- **Q-global** will automatically keep track of basal, ceiling, and subdomain completion rules
- **INTERVIEW FORM:**
 - Process is the same as Vineland-II
 - BUT Q-global conveniently organizes items with related content by topic
 - Interview Topics include 2 to 6 items
 - All information for the items within an Interview Topic is displayed on a single screen
 - Q-global automatically tracks basals and ceilings



Conducting a Semi-Structured Interview

DO

Use open-ended questioning

Use information from respondent to score items

DO NOT

Read items to respondent

Ask respondent to provide item scores



Vineland-3 Results

9 Year-old Male with Autism; Full Scale IQ = 119



Domains and Subdomains	Standard/V-Scores	Percentile Rank	Adaptive Level	Age Equivalent
Communication	81	10	Moderately Low	
Receptive	10		Moderately Low	3 years, 7 months
Expressive	11		Moderately Low	5 years, 6 months
Written	14		Adequate	8 years, 10 months
Daily Living Skills	85	16	Moderately Low	
Personal	12		Moderately Low	6 years, 6 months
Domestic	13		Adequate	7 years, 5 months
Community	13		Adequate	8 years, 5 months
Socialization	68	2	Low	
Interpersonal Relationships	9		Low	2 years, 11 months
Play and Leisure Time	10		Moderately Low	4 years, 8 months
Coping Skills	8		Low	1 years, 11 months
Adaptive Behavior Composite	76	5	Moderately Low	

Communication & DLS scores fall below age-expectations - should be average given high IQ

Socialization scores fall substantially below both age and IQ

NOTE: high Written subdomain scores in comparison to significantly lower Receptive & Expressive scores. This profile often inflates the Communication Domain scores and reflects the affinity for numbers, letters, reading, & writing often observed in ASD

Fostering Adaptive Behavior



Levels of Adaptive Functioning



Daily Living Skills (ADLs)

- *Dressing*
- *Bathing*
- *Toileting*
- *Feeding*
- *Mobility*
- *Medical management*

Functional Independence

- *Social Awareness*
- *Emotional Awareness*
- *Personal Care*
- *Career Development*
- *Community Navigation*
- *Financial Management*



The Impact of ASD Interventions on Adaptive Behavior

- Risperidone & Parent Training improve adaptive skills in ASD
Scahill et al., 2016; 2012; 2009; Bearss et al., 2015; Williams et al., 2006
- Early intensive behavioral interventions (EIBIs) are effective in improving adaptive skills children with ASD
Warren et al., 2011
- Early Start Denver Model is effective in improving adaptive skills in toddlers with ASD
Estes et al., 2015; Dawson et al., 2010
- Inclusion of toddlers in community-based programs can produce improvements in adaptive skills
Stahmer, Akshoomoff, & Cunningham, 2011
- Adaptive skill instruction within intervention is highly associated with positive outcome in adults with unimpaired baseline IQs
Farley et al., 2009

Farley et al., 2009



Enhance Self-Advocacy

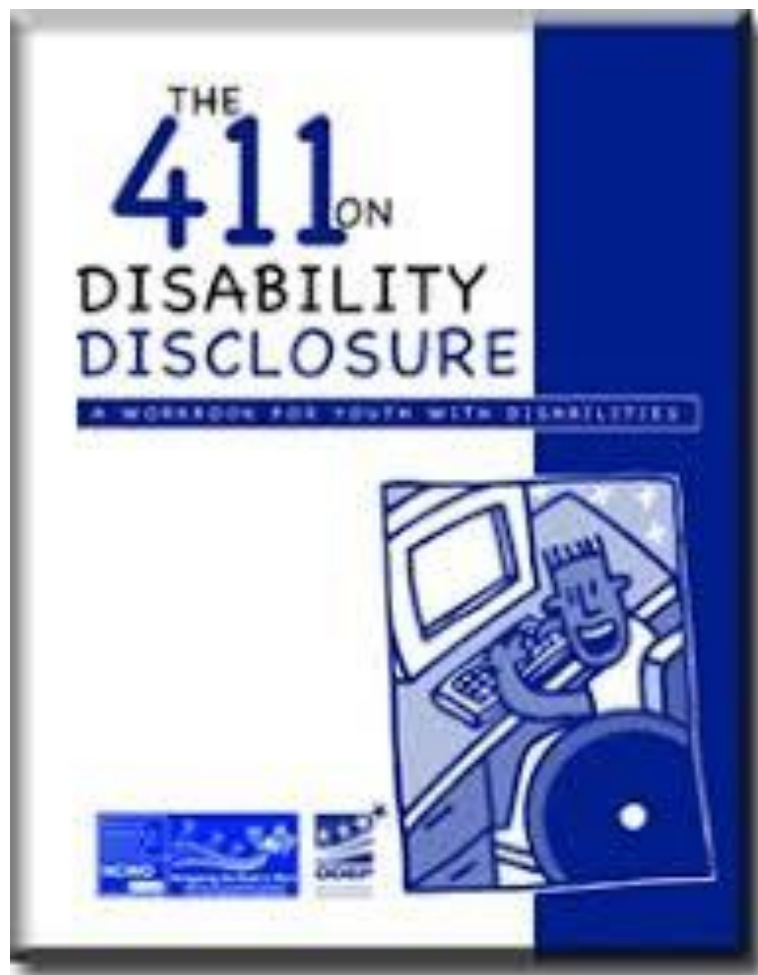
www.ncwd-youth.info

- Encourage individuals to speak up for themselves and contribute to their life decisions
- Teach individuals their rights in different educational settings and in the workplace
- Know how and when to ask for accommodations
- Know how to navigate the community and access services and supports needed
- Encourage support networks that can help advocate



Enhance Self-Advocacy

www.ncwd-youth.info



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*How Do We Do All of This?
Remotely and/or With PPE?*





Remote & In-Person Options: Standardized Assessments



- *Standardized Assessments were not normed via telehealth or with examiners/examinees wearing PPE!*
- Need to use clinical judgment in estimating validity of findings
- If possible, compare findings to prior testing results and diagnostic impressions
- “New Normal”: If you are in a position to contribute data to those conducting research on telehealth and/or PPE, please contribute!



Remote Assessment Options:

www.pearsonassessments.com/professional-assessments/digitalsolutions/telepractice



GFTA-3 Spanish >	BSI 18 >	PLS-5 Screening Test >
KTEA-3 >	BSS >	PLS-5 Spanish Screening Test >
PLS-5 >	BYI-2 >	QOLI >
PLS-5 Spanish >	D-REF >	SCL-90-R >
PPVT-4 >	M-PACI >	Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen >
PPVT-5 >	MACI-II >	Sensory Profile 2 >
WAB-R >	MAPI >	SSIS SEL >
WAIS-IV >	MBMD >	Vineland-3 >
WIAT-III >	Interventions	Q-global Resource Library
WISC-V >	BOV-2 >	Free access ends August 15th! Enjoy a 50% discount on Q-g assets through 12/31/2020
WMS-IV >	Cogmed >	Learn more



Administering the Vineland-3 via telepractice

Special recommendations for administering Vineland-3 via telepractice

The Vineland-3 can be administered in a telepractice context by utilizing Pearson's Q-Global® software system. Details regarding the Q-global system and how it is used are provided on the [Q-global product page](#).

The Vineland-3 is available in three administration forms: The Interview Form, The Parent/Caregiver Form, and the Teacher Form. Each form has a Comprehensive version and a Domain version. Please refer to the Vineland-3 Manual to help with decisions regarding which forms are appropriate for each client/referral question.

For telepractice, the Interview Form must be conducted with the informant via video-conferencing, with the examiner using Q-Global On-Screen Administration (OSA) to guide the interview and score responses. It is important to note that the Vineland-3 Interview Form was not standardized in a telepractice format, and this should be taken into consideration when determining the use of this measure for telepractice administration. The Parent/Caregiver and Teacher Forms are administered through Q-global Remote On-Screen Administration (ROSA) and do not require video contact. The considerations and options for telepractice are different for the Interview Form and forms administered through ROSA. This document will guide you through remote administration of both OSA and ROSA administrations for the Vineland-3.

Conducting an assessment in a telepractice service delivery model requires an understanding of the interplay between a number of complex issues. In addition to the general information on our [telepractice overview](#) page, professionals should address five themes (Eichstadt et al., 2013) when planning for administering Vineland-3 via telepractice.



Administering the Vineland-3 via Video Conference



Q Global

Zoom / Video Platform

qosa.pearsonclinical.com/qosa-a2/b49be27-f1f4-419e-9d15-c412090d6a56

Paused

Receptive: FOLLOWING COMPLEX INSTRUCTIONS

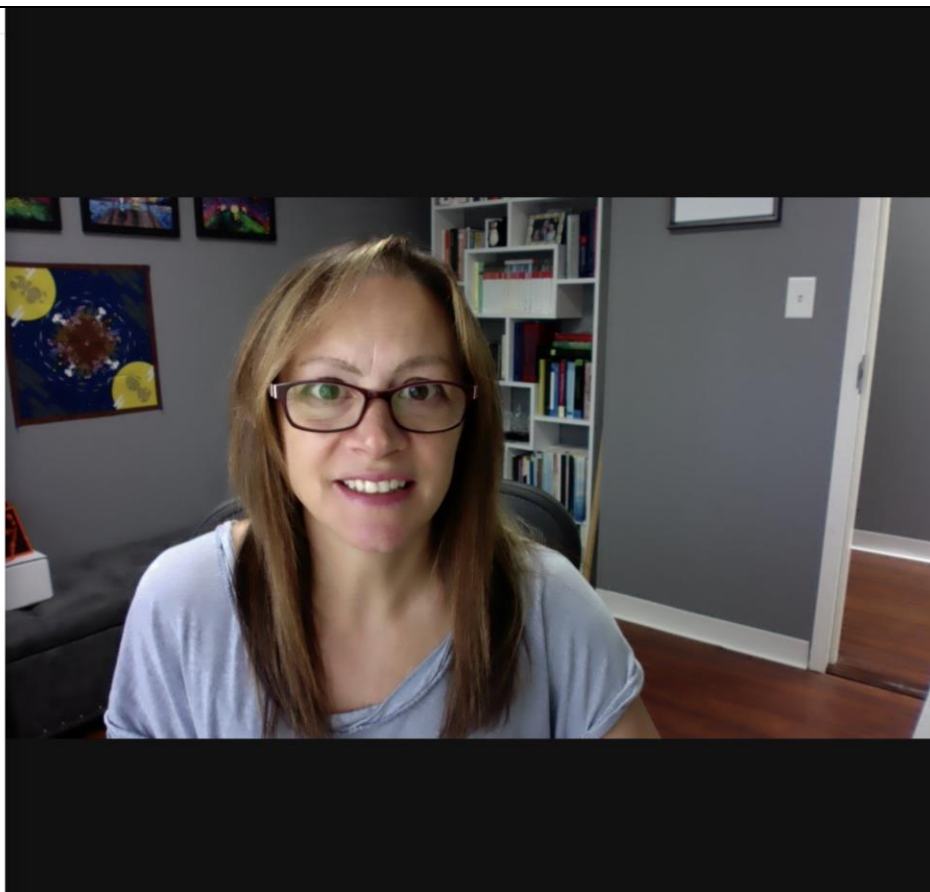
Suggested Interview Question: *What are the most complicated kinds of instructions that Jane follows?*

	2 Usually	1 Sometimes	0 Never	Check if Estimated
Follows instructions requiring three actions (for example, "Get dressed, eat breakfast, and brush your teeth"). Probe Scoring Criteria	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When instructed to do something up to an hour later, remembers to do it (for example, "When your show is over, put your dishes in the sink"). Probe Scoring Criteria	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When instructed to do something several hours later, remembers to do it (for example, "When you get home from school, let the dog out"). Probe Scoring Criteria	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies left and right on own body (for example, hands, feet, arms). Probe Scoring Criteria	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follows instructions involving left and right (for example, "Go to the left"; "Look to the right"). Probe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments or Observations:

0 / 500

<< >>





Summary



- It is standard practice to include adaptive behavior assessments as part of a diagnostic evaluation for ASD
- Adaptive behavior is strongly associated with optimal outcome into adulthood
- The Vineland-3 comprehensive interview offers a standardized way of collecting information that informs the diagnostic profile
- COVID-19 has forced us, as clinicians, to conduct evaluations remotely and in-person with PPE – although not the way our measures were standardized, we have to work with what we have!
- The Vineland-3 can be administered remotely via videoconference (or, less preferably, by phone)

THANK YOU!
Be Safe & Well!
celine@nacsatl.com



NACS

Neurodevelopmental
Assessment &
Consulting Services



Pearson