

Test of Everyday Attention for Children: Discriminatory Ability for ADHD

Kayla M. Downing, M.T.S, Ashley S. Rowden, M.S.Ed., Julia Phillips, B.A.,

Daniel C. Miller, Ph.D., ABPP, ABSNP, & Denise E. Maricle, Ph.D.

Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas

These data were drawn from an archival sample of 239 mixed clinical case studies and interpolated scores conducted by students in the School Neuropsychology Post-Graduate Certification Program (2001 - 2010).

Subtest Description	Learning Disabled (n = 111) Mean (SD)	Neurologically Impaired (n = 34) Mean (SD)	ADHD (n = 69) Mean (SD)	Autism Spectrum (n = 25) Mean (SD)	F(3, 235)	p
Focused (Selective) Attention						
Sky Search - find and circle stimuli (spaceship) among distracters and compare to ability to find stimuli alone.	8.98 (3.13)	9.32 (2.86)	9.45 (2.75)	9.44 (2.66)	0.44 (3, 235)	.72
Map Mission - find and circle map symbols among distractions while under a time limit.	7.37 (2.37)	6.53 (1.97)	7.10 (2.40)	7.28 (1.72)	1.23 (3, 235)	.30
Sustained Attention						
Score! - count auditory stimuli spread out over extended period of time.	9.03 (2.97)	8.59 (3.14)	8.62 (2.97)	9.40 (3.03)	0.61 (3, 235)	.61
Walk Don't Walk - discriminating between tones that indicate action (move a stimulus along a path) and tones that do not.	8.05 (3.43)	8.26 (2.70)	8.62 (3.81)	8.32 (2.78)	0.41 (3, 235)	.74
Code Transmission - listen for pair of numbers and identify preceding number over a twelve minute period.	7.20 (4.23)	7.59 (3.90)	7.93 (3.72)	8.64 (3.97)	1.08 (3, 235)	.36
Sky Search Dual Task - find and circle visual stimuli (spaceship) while keeping count of specific auditory stimuli.	6.77 (3.42)	6.15 (2.56)	6.43 (3.56)	6.20 (2.65)	0.46 (3, 235)	.71
Score Dual Task - count auditory stimuli while listening for alternative stimuli (animal names).	8.73 (3.86)	7.85 (3.03)	8.01 (3.22)	8.32 (3.24)	0.87 (3, 235)	.46
Attentional Control/Switching						
Creature Counting - Switch between counting up and down based on visual cues (arrows).	8.80 (2.21)	9.26 (2.09)	8.54 (2.71)	8.40 (1.87)	0.96 (3, 235)	.41
Opposite Worlds - measures speed of cognitive reversal (say one when see a two) compared to speed when reading numbers as seen.	6.29 (2.25)	6.15 (2.56)	6.43 (3.55)	6.20 (2.65)	0.42 (3, 235)	.74

Implications:

- The individual subtests of the TEA-Ch do not effectively discriminate between clinical groups
- Practitioners should exercise caution and base diagnoses of attentional processing disorders on multiple sources of data
- Directions for future research include using participants with different diagnoses or multiple diagnoses, as well as comparing TEA-Ch scores to other measures of attention