TPT

Toddler Phonology Test

Overview

The *TPT* is the only phonology test specifically designed for children aged 2 years to 2 years 11 months. It is supported by research published in *Child Language Teaching and Therapy* (Watson and Scukanec, 1997) that has shown how the early identification of phonological disorders has become increasingly important; supporting the need for normative data to justify and direct intervention for children referred in this age group.

In her report, *Two Years On: final report of the Communication Champion for children,* Jean Gross identified 30 recommendations for Government, local authorities, the voluntary sector and schools which included placing an emphasis on 'early intervention strategies'. These include 'components focused on promoting children's language and communication development as well as their social and emotional development.' In turn this reiterates the research by Broomfield and Dodd (2005) which highlighted how better outcomes following early intervention for phonological disorder may be easier to shape a developing system than one which is well established.
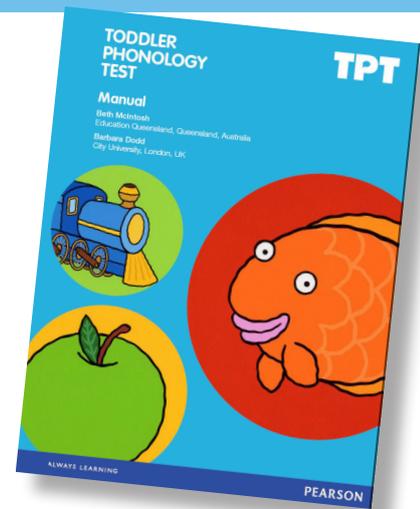
The *TPT* therefore assists the clinician, by asking the child to name 31 pictures targeting 37 words, in comparing a child's spoken phonology to standardised normative data, and establishing error patterns as typical or atypical. The *TPT* has been given the qualification code CL2.

Features

- Thirty seven relevant target words from the phonology subtest of the *DEAP* are used to identify and classify error patterns in a child's speech as delayed or atypical.
- Includes 105 consonants in syllable initial (including consonant clusters) and syllable final positions, and 56 vowels and dipthongs.
- Qualitative measures such as error patterns and phone repertoire are used as well as analysis using quantitative measures observing the percentage of correct consonants and vowels. In observing the errors as typical, this kind of pattern will be used at least twice by at least 10% of children in the same age band.
- The manual includes development of consonant inventory for the two age groups and separates these as 75% of the sample and 90% of the sample which is an excellent guide.

TPT
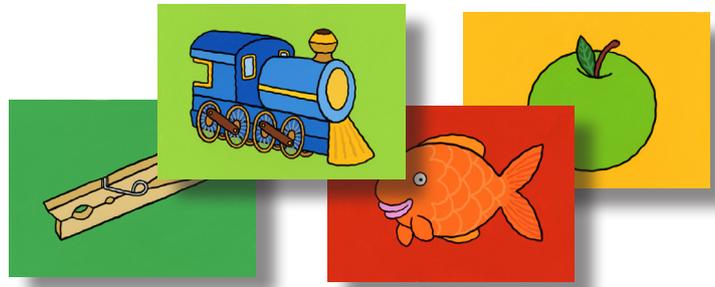
Catrin: 2:3 years (27 months) - Suspected Disorder

Background Information

Catrin was seen at her nursery. She was in the young age band, and came from a middle-SES family. Both her PCC and PVC scores are below the normal range and qualitative analyses of her error types may indicate disordered development. She makes 17 atypical errors (mainly Backing of Alveolar Consonants and Initial Consonant Deletion).

Test Results

Measure	Raw Score	Standard Score
PCC	31	6
PVC	61	5

Phones missing were age appropriate: /f, w, j, θ, ð, ŋ, ʒ, dʒ/

Error Patterns Included	Number of Occurrences
Cluster Reduction	12
Syllable Deletion	6
Final Consonant Deletion	9
Fronting Fricatives	2
Fronting Velars	2
Stopping	8
Voicing Errors	3
Assimilation	3
Total number of Atypical Errors	17

Catrin's high number of atypical errors indicates that she is at risk of a phonological disorder despite her articulatory development being within normal limits.

Technical information

The *TPT* was standardised in the UK in 2009-2010 and in Australia from 2007-2010. The examiners were asked to test a sample of children from nurseries and childcare centres to ensure proportional representation of girls and boys, age range and socio-economic status (SES).

The UK Sample

The UK Monolingual Normative Sample consisted of 201 children. Divided into two age bands, the age band 24-29 months consisted of 95 children of which 48 (50.5%) were girls and 47 (49.5%) were boys. The age

band 30-35 months consisted of 106 children of which 52 (49.1%) were girls and 54 (50.9%) were boys.

English as an Additional Language

The EAL UK normative sample consisted of 30 children; 14 in the age band 24-29 months and 16 in the age band 30-35 months.

Why choose the TPT?

- Authors, Barbara Dodd and Beth McIntosh are leaders in the fields of child speech and language, diagnosis and speech difficulties, meaning speech and language therapists and pathologists can be assured of the expertise of this assessment.
- A highly reliable and valid assessment for toddlers.
- Manual provides a range of case studies to illustrate the type of data the *TPT* can offer clinicians.
- Child friendly stimuli.
- Administration is individual with a maximum of 20 minutes.
- UK norms.

Related Titles

Diagnostic Evaluation of Articulation and Phonology (DEAP), Alison Holm, Barbara Dodd and Zhu Hua, 2002

References

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Watson, M., & Scukanec, G. (1997). Profiling the phonological abilities of 2-year olds: A longitudinal study. *Child Language Teaching and Therapy, 13,* 3–14.

The TPT is underpinned by a number of research studies and assessment tools. The following list provides a guide to where further supporting information can be sourced.

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