

Understanding the WISC-V Verbal Comprehension Index: A method to understanding your child's struggles with verbal expression.



Does your child struggle with problem-solving or verbal expression? Or do they have difficulty recalling what they have learned? To gain a clearer understanding of your child's challenges with verbal expression, reasoning, and knowledge application, a comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation at South County Child and Family Consultants is highly recommended. This evaluation includes the Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI), a crucial tool for revealing your child's verbal strengths and weaknesses, and how they impact their ability to learn and communicate effectively.

One of the key assessments used in these evaluations is the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children–5th Edition (WISC-V). This set of tests measures various cognitive skills to help identify how your child learns most effectively. Among the five primary index scores on the WISC-V is the Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI), which assesses your child's verbal skills. The Verbal Comprehension Index consists of two core subtests: Vocabulary and Similarities. Additionally, there are two supplemental tests for this index: Information and

Comprehension. For a deeper understanding of how these subtests are administered, this article by edpsyched.com is a valuable resource.

What is the WISC-V Verbal Comprehension Index?

The Verbal Comprehension Index consists of core subtests like Vocabulary and Similarities, along with supplemental tests such as Information and Comprehension. These tests evaluate a child's ability to:

- Access vocabulary and express themselves meaningfully using words, idioms, and sentences.
- Form verbal concepts, engage in reasoning, and comprehend spoken and written language.
- Acquire, access, and apply knowledge and reasoning within their environment.
- Retrieve information, utilize vocabulary, and apply verbal reasoning to solve problems.
- Communicate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively through verbal expression.
- Apply semantic knowledge and demonstrate long-term retrieval of learned information.
- Demonstrate acquired knowledge, influenced by education and culture, and apply it with practical judgment.

It's crucial to acknowledge that the Verbal Comprehension Index is influenced by cultural background and access to education. A child's score often reflects the knowledge and abilities valued within their culture and the opportunities they've had to develop those skills.

What High Verbal Comprehension Index Scores Mean

Children with high Verbal Comprehension Index scores are often perceived as bright and knowledgeable, demonstrating a wealth of information. They typically:

- Effectively retrieve information to express their

thoughts or support their learning.

- Accurately comprehend language, understand others, and ask fact-based informational questions.
- Can access and apply verbal knowledge effectively.
- Can explain their thoughts and articulate facts regarding the world around them.
- Demonstrate higher-order thinking.
- Show an ability to learn verbal concepts and communication skills through experience.

High scores may also indicate exposure to extensive cultural and educational environments and the ability to apply learned verbal concepts in new situations.

What Low Verbal Comprehension Index Scores Mean

Lower Verbal Comprehension Index scores can indicate various challenges, including:

- Struggles with understanding and expressing oral language, including potential auditory processing and encoding difficulties.
- Challenges in conveying basic knowledge, despite adequate memory recall.
- Difficulties with fundamental problem-solving and verbal reasoning skills.
- Possible limited exposure to cultural and educational experiences, impacting verbal knowledge.
- Problems with expressive language and active processing of verbal concepts.
- Varied verbal abilities, such as strong vocabulary but weak abstract reasoning, or lower scores in multi-language learners due to language development complexities.

It's important to remember that a low score may reflect limited access to education or cultural experiences rather than a child's inherent ability. However, a lower score may

indicate a need for targeted support.

Neuropsychological Evaluations: Finding Answers and Support

If you're considering a neuropsychological evaluation for your child, including the WISC-V and its Verbal Comprehension Index, South County Child and Family Consultants in Wakefield, Rhode Island, provides expert assessments. The team at South County Child and Family Consultants specializes in helping children with ADHD, executive functioning difficulties, and learning differences. We can provide valuable insights into why a child might be struggling at school or not reaching their potential. For more information, please contact us at South County Child and Family Consultants at 401-789-1553 or evals@sccfc.net.