What Does the Fluid-reasoning Index Measure?

At its core, the fluid reasoning index measures a child’s ability to apply logic and reasoning to problem solving and novel situations. Fluid reasoning is related to math achievement, written expression, and to a lesser degree, reading skills. Fluid reasoning helps children with novel tasks when they need to recognize challenges and make inferences and assists them in detecting underlying conceptual relationships between visual objects. Fluid-reasoning skills include inductive and quantitative reasoning, visual intelligence, simultaneous processing, and abstract thinking and are also involved in understanding complex problem solving, realizing the implications of a behavior or action, and identifying patterns.

Children with strength in fluid reasoning display the capacity to gather meaningful information from visual details and to apply that knowledge across a variety of settings. These children are able to identify and apply rules across novel situations and settings and show the capacity to generalize information from one situation to another.

Children who struggle with fluid-reasoning skills have difficulty identifying important visual information or cannot connect what they see to abstract concepts or new situations. They may have problems in understanding the relationship among patterns and comprehending and applying conceptual or quantitative concepts to make sense of a confusing situation. They may also display low general-reasoning abilities.