

Adaptive Behaviour Scales

Adaptive behaviors include real-life skills such as grooming, getting dressed, avoiding danger, safe food handling, following school rules, managing money, cleaning, and making friends. Adaptive behavior also includes the ability to work, practice social skills, and take personal responsibility.

An adaptive behavior measure is a specific comprehensive assessment of independent living skills. It is an important tool in eligibility consideration for students with mental handicaps and in the continual development of effective educational interventions. Using research based assessments to measure adaptive behavior will help to ensure that only those students who meet specific criteria will be found eligible. Parental input is an essential component of the adaptive behavior assessment process since there are many daily living skills that are observed primarily at home and are not displayed in the educational setting.

Description: A student diagnosed with intellectual disabilities must show a deficit in adaptive behavior, or basic living skills. Adaptive behavior scales assess skills in daily living, community participation, social abilities, motor abilities, and communication.

Examples: AAMR Adaptive Behavior Scales (ABS-II), and Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC-3).