

As Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases continue to rise around the globe, the Riverside team is closely monitoring the situation and any potential impacts on our ability to deliver industry-leading service, support, and insights to your organization. Although the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, our commitment to our customers remains unchanged.

We realize that our Battelle Developmental Inventory, 3rd Edition (BDI-3) is instrumental in helping children across the nation gain access to interventions necessary to help them reach their milestone potentials. The current social distancing required throughout the nation has led to changes in federal guidelines, in which the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human services both reported that:

“If an evaluation of a student with a disability requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation would need to be delayed until school reopens. Evaluations and re-evaluations that do not require face-to-face assessments or observations may take place while schools are closed, so long as a student’s parent or legal guardian consents. These same principles apply to similar activities conducted by appropriate personnel for a student with a disability who has a plan developed under Section 504, or who is being evaluated under Section 504.”

This can be found at the following link:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/ga-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

“If the offices of the state lead agency or the EIS program or provider are closed, then Part C services would not need to be provided to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families during that period of time. If the lead agency’s offices are open but the offices of the EIS program or provider in a specific geographical area are closed due to public health and safety concerns as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak in that area, the EIS program or provider would not be required to provide services during the closure. If the offices remain open, but Part C services cannot be provided in a particular location (such as in the child’s home), by a particular EIS provider, or to a particular child who is infected with COVID-19, then the lead agency must ensure the continuity of services by, for example, providing services in an alternate location, by using a different EIS provider, or through alternate means, such as consultative services to the parent.”

This can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>

In cases where a state still wishes to engage in assessment for eligibility or to provide services to children in need during this time, accommodations can be made due to the current unusual circumstance.

Although the Battelle Developmental Inventory- 3rd Edition (BDI-3) is designed to be administered in person, there are options on how data can be collected during this assessment. When a structured administration is available, it is the preferred way to collect data. However, given the circumstances at this time, that option is not recommended, due to the possibility of contamination and spreading of COVID-19. However, for subdomains in which data collection through the interview method is available, that remains a valid and reliable way to collect the BDI-3 data and can be done over the phone or web camera.



Adaptations or accommodations made to the test are possible, however it is important to adhere to the standardization method as much as is possible. Page 18 of the BDI-3 Examiner's Manual states:

"Any adaptations of the standardized BDI-3 administration directions may affect normative interpretations. Accommodations for children with disabilities, such as repetition of test items (unless explicitly stated in the directions), assistance in moving pieces or signaling responses, and the use of special communication devices or electronic voicing systems, may change the standardized nature of test administration. Such changes may have unknown effects on the validity of score interpretations. Some adaptations may be minor and, presumably, will not affect the use of normative interpretations, but other changes may be significant enough to disallow the use of norms. Some items specifically state that forms of communication other than spoken language are acceptable. These are usually presented as notes within the item."

Your business, as well as the safety and health of your employees are our top priorities, and we will continue to evaluate our processes and services to ensure we are doing everything we can to support you through this evolving situation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at COVID-readiness@riversideinsights.com.

Thank you for helping us continue to elevate human potential as we explore creative solutions to unlock opportunities amidst this global challenge.

Your team at Riverside
Insights