PARCA-R Scoring instructions

This document tells you how to obtain the raw scores for the PARCA-R questionnaire.

1. Non-Verbal Cognition scale

The Non-Verbal Cognition scale comprises questions 1-34 in the “Your child’s play” section of the questionnaire.

Score each of the 34 “Your child’s play” questions as follows:

Yes = 1
No = 0
Don’t know = 0

Sum the number of yes responses to give the total score for the Non-Verbal Cognition scale. Non-Verbal Cognition scale scores range from 0 to 34.

Scores for missing questions in the Non-Verbal Cognition scale can be substituted with the average of the score for completed questions if ≤ 4 questions are missing. If > 4 questions are missing, the Non-Verbal Cognition scale cannot be calculated.

2. Language scale

The Language scale consists of two sections:

a) Vocabulary sub-scale, which comprises the 100-word checklist in the “What your child can say” section of the questionnaire;

b) Sentence complexity sub-scale, which comprises the 18 questions in the “How your child uses words” section of the questionnaire.

To calculate the total score for the Language scale, first calculate the score for the Vocabulary sub-scale by summing the number of words ticked in the “What your child can say” section of the questionnaire. Vocabulary sub-scale scores range from 0 to 100. Unchecked or unanswered items for the Vocabulary sub-scale should be set to zero.

Then calculate the score for the Sentence Complexity sub-scale.

First, score questions 1 to 6 of the “How your child uses words” section of the questionnaire, as follows:

Often = 2
Sometimes = 1
Not Yet = 0

This gives scores with a range from 0 to 12.

Second, score questions 7 to 18 as follows:

Sentence A = 0
Sentence B = 1

This gives scores with a range from 0 to 12.
Then sum the scores from questions 1 to 18 to give the total score for the Sentence Complexity sub-scale. Sentence Complexity sub-scale scores range from 0 to 24.

Unchecked or unanswered items for the Sentence Complexity sub-scale should be set to zero.

Finally, to obtain the total score for the Language scale, sum the Vocabulary and Sentence Complexity sub-scale scores. Language scale scores range from 0 to 124.

3. Parent Report Composite score

To obtain the total Parent Report Composite (PRC) score, sum the total scores for the Non-Verbal Cognition scale and the Language scale. PRC scores range from 0 to 158.

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The PARCA questionnaire was adapted for use with infants born preterm (Johnson et al., Dev Med Child Neurol 2004, 46; 389-397) with permission from Saudino, Dale, Oliver, Petrill, Richardson, Rutter, Simonoff, Stevenson & Plomin (1998). The language measures included in this questionnaire are used with permission from the MacArthur-Bates CDI Advisory Board, Chair: Larry Fenson (2016).