

Contact:
Mark Slitt
210.339.5399

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**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CORPORATION RESETS THE GOLD STANDARD
WITH FOURTH EDITION OF THE
WECHSLER INTELLIGENCE SCALE FOR CHILDREN®**

SAN ANTONIO – The Psychological Corporation, a Harcourt Assessment company, announced today that it has launched the latest edition of the most widely used test of children’s intellectual ability, the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children® - Fourth Edition (WISC-IV®).

First introduced in 1949, the Wechsler scale is considered the gold standard among children’s intelligence tests and the WISC-IV continues this tradition of excellence.

“We made a fine product even better,” said Aurelio Prifitera, president of The Psychological Corporation. “We kept the best features of the earlier editions of WISC and integrated the latest research on cognitive psychology and intellectual assessment to create a product that once again sets the standard for what an intelligence test for children ought to be.”

New research indicates that tasks focused on processing speed and working memory are better measures of intelligence than some other tasks relied upon in the past, and are also strong indicators of potential learning disabilities or attention disorders. For these reasons, the WISC-IV places greater weight on these tasks, making it a more accurate and more useful measure of a child’s intellectual ability.

Other reasons for updating WISC include changes in demographics that affect the norms that children are compared to, as well as a natural tendency for children to score, on average, several points higher every decade.

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WISC-IV also reflects current thinking that assessments should be relevant and interesting to the children who take them. Artwork in the WISC-IV is colorful and modern, and portrays contemporary culture, technology and demographics. Outdated content has been replaced with more current subject matter, and instructions to both the child and the examiner have been improved, making WISC-IV both child-friendly and easy to administer.

The WISC-IV comprises 10 core and five supplemental subtests, which are grouped into four indices -- verbal comprehension, perceptual reasoning, working memory and processing speed. Scores from each index, based on the core subtests only, are combined to create a child's total score, or Full Scale IQ (FSIQ).

Three subtests from previous editions -- mazes, object assembly and picture arrangement -- were dropped from the fourth edition in favor of newer working memory and processing speed subtests that researchers discovered are more accurate and better measures of intelligence.

The WISC-IV includes several new subtests. In the new word reasoning subtest, a child receives multiple verbal clues then must determine what those clues mean. For example, the child might identify a mop based on verbal clues that describe its form and function.

The new matrix reasoning subtest measures a child's non-verbal reasoning ability. In this exercise, a child sees a partially filled grid and then selects the item that completes the grid. For example, the child might see two sets of shapes, such as stars and pentagons, with one set arranged in a certain color sequence. The child then must determine the correct color sequence of the second set of shapes to complete the grid.

In the new picture concepts subtest, which measures a child's ability to categorize, the child sees multiple rows of objects and selects those objects that are similar based on an underlying concept. For example, the similar items might be trees or animals.

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The new letter-numbering sequence subtest measures working memory. In this exercise, a child hears a mixed combination of letters and numbers. The child first repeats the numbers in numerical order and then the letters in alphabetical order.

A new timed subtest called “cancellation” tests a child’s processing speed. In this exercise, a page is covered with pictures of animals and other common objects, either randomly scattered on the page or arranged in rows and columns. The child then marks through – or cancels – the animals as quickly as possibly.

Based in San Antonio, The Psychological Corporation is respected worldwide for its technically superior, industry-leading assessment products. The company’s Wechsler® family of tests also includes the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale® – Third Edition (WAIS® -III) and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence™ – Third Edition (WPPSI™-III).

As a Harcourt Assessment company, The Psychological Corporation is a unit of Harcourt, Inc., which is a global publishing and education company serving students and teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. Harcourt is a member of the Reed Elsevier Group plc (NYSE: RUK and ENL) -- a world-leading publisher and information provider operating in the science and medical, legal, education and business-to-business industry sectors.

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