

Literacy Assessments for Deaf Children

1. Spelling:

- **Suffix spelling**

Comprises 44 words, from 11 English classifications:

'-ed'; plural '-s'; 3rd person singular; '-ian'; '-er'; '-ist'; '-ion'; '-ment'; '-ness'; '-less'; '-ful'.

Spelling words are presented to a child/group of children, in written sentences that can be spoken or signed, and are accompanied by a picture presentation on the screen.

N.B. This is a spelling task where the target word is GIVEN; it is not a sentence completion task to test comprehension.

Participants are required to complete the pre-numbered assessment sheet. Timing: Approximately 20 – 30 minutes.

- **Word spelling** (adapted from Schonell test)

Comprises 50 words, and has been adapted for deaf children from the standardised test.

Spelling words are presented to a child/group of children, in written sentences that can be spoken or signed, and are accompanied by a picture on the accompanying CD.

N.B. This is a spelling task where the target word is GIVEN; it is not a sentence completion task to test comprehension.

Participants are required to complete the pre-numbered assessment sheet. Timing: Approximately 20 – 30 minutes.

2. Word reading (adapted from Schonell)

Comprises 50 words and has been adapted for deaf children.

Participants are requested to tick ONE of the four illustrations that they think matches the word on each page.

N.B. As this is a reading assessment, help cannot be given to reading.

The first two words (teddy / television) are practice words where the children can be given assistance.

Timing: Approximately 10 minutes.

3. Reading Comprehension :

Children are required to read the texts about the dog and the cat, and to then answer the questions (one word answers are sufficient) on the grid.

The 'questions' may be read / signed to the participant.

The last section requires the participant to ascertain the characteristics that best describe the cat and the dog, e.g. "Do you think the dog is sleepy / greedy / friendly or naughty? If you think 'YES', put a tick *and copy the sentence in the text that tells you this / makes you think this is true*".

For the characteristics of the cat, 'bright' means 'clever' in this context, and should therefore be signed as 'clever' and spoken as 'bright or clever'.

(The point we are trying to ascertain is how many deaf readers only understand the literal meaning of „bright“ and respond with “She has bright blue eyes”).

Timing: Approximately 5 - 10 minutes.

4. Analytic Writing Assessment

Comprises a test with four-picture sequences.

Participants are invited to create their own story and write each section under the relevant picture. Assistance may be given with spelling, but please underline each word the participant was unable to spell independently.

Timing: Approximately 10 - 20 minutes.

N.B. Where the participant is able to give just one word for each picture, the assessment may only take a matter of moments.

