The Degangi-Berk Test of Sensory Integration (TSI)

Overview
The DeGangi-Berk Test of Sensory Integration (DeGangi & Berk, 1983) is a criterion-referenced assessment of sensory integrative functions of children ages 3 to 5 years who demonstrate delays in sensory, motor, and perceptual skills, or who are suspected of having learning problems. It consists of three domains: Postural Control, Bilateral Motor Integration, and Reflex Integration. The test is clinician administered and takes approximately 30 minutes. The DeGangi-Berk Test of Sensory Integration is designed to be a diagnostic tool when administered by an occupational therapist or physical therapist who is knowledgeable about sensory integration. If administered by special educators, motor developmental specialists, or therapy assistants, the test may be used as a screening tool to determine if a child warrants a more thorough sensory evaluation.

Children are asked to perform the desired task and are rated on a weighted numerical point system ranging from 0-1 to 0-4 depending on the degree of difficulty for the item. One of the major advantages of the DeGangi-Berk Test of Sensory Integration is that it allows the examiner to observe and rate the child’s performance on crossing midline, maintaining various postural positions, producing co-contraction of opposing muscle groups, and motor planning for various tasks. The test was piloted on 38 children with developmental delay, but not specifically on children diagnosed with AU. The Reflex Integration domain was found to have less than desired rigor for validity and reliability and, therefore, should be used cautiously from a diagnostic standpoint. Another possible drawback of the DeGangi-Berk Test of Sensory Integration is that the child must be able to demonstrate sustained attention to perform test items and also be able to interpret verbal instructions. Therefore, it may only be useful for children with autism who have good attention and receptive language skills.
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#### Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Tool/Author</th>
<th>Age Range*</th>
<th>Method of Administration/Format</th>
<th>Approximate Time to Administer</th>
<th>Subscales</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeGangi-Berk Test of Sensory Integration DeGangi &amp; Berk (1983)</td>
<td>3–5</td>
<td>Criterion-referenced; clinician-administered; 36 items assess postural control, bilateral coordination, and reflexes</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
<td>Postural Control; Bilateral Motor Integration; Reflex Integration</td>
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<td>Child-performed items are numerically rated on a scale of 0-1 or 0-4 based on the difficulty of the item</td>
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<td>Yields scores that fall into Normal, At Risk, and Deficient categories</td>
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*In years except where noted.**

**Availability:** Western Psychological Services, [http://bit.ly/1GWcLSW](http://bit.ly/1GWcLSW)

#### Research
None

#### References