The Evaluation Tool of Children’s Handwriting (ETCH)

Overview
The Evaluation Tool of Children’s Handwriting (ETCH; Amundson, 1995) is a criterion-referenced assessment of manuscript and cursive writing for students in grades 1 through 6 (6 years through 12 years, 5 months). It is designed for use primarily with students with mild developmental delays, learning disabilities, and mild neuromuscular impairments. The ETCH assesses legibility, speed, letter formation, spacing, size, and alignment. Additionally, it contains observation sections for pencil grasp, pencil management, and classroom behavior.

The ETCH consists of the following seven tasks: writing alphabet from memory, writing numerals from memory, near-point copying, far-point copying, manuscript to cursive translation, dictation, and sentence composition. This test is simple to administer in 20 to 25 minutes. Scoring is more challenging and can take 10 to 20 minutes, depending on the scorer’s familiarity with the scoring guidelines. ETCH results in legibility and speed scores for the seven tasks, as well as a composite score for total legibility.

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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</table>
| Evaluation Tool of Children’s Handwriting (ETCH) Amundson (1995) | 6–12.5 | Criterion-referenced; clinician-administered  
Grade 1 and 2 students write in manuscript; grade 3–6 students write in cursive  
Legibility and speed measured in tasks similar to classroom activities  
Observation sections: pencil grasp, pencil management, classroom behavior | 15–20 min. | Alphabet from Memory, Uppercase and Lowercase; Numerals from Memory, 1–20; Near-Point Copying; Far-Point Copying; Manuscript to Cursive Transition; Dictation; Sentence Composition |

*In years except where noted.

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Research
None

References