The Minnesota Handwriting Assessment (MHA)

Overview
The Minnesota Handwriting Assessment (MHA; Reisman, 1999) is a norm-based assessment that can be used from January of first grade through second grade to assess manuscript handwriting with the Zaner-Bloser, Palmer, or D’Nealian styles. It is a near-point copy assessment that can be administered in 5 to 10 minutes either individually or to a group. The MHA is a standardized assessment that results in scores for rate, legibility, form, alignment, size, and spacing. Scores are assigned to the following categories: Performing Like Peers, Performing Below Peers, and Performing Well Below Peers. According to the author, students who fall in the bottom 5% (Performing Well Below Peers) should be considered for further evaluation.

In general, evaluation of handwriting is a challenge to school-based therapists because of the subjectivity involved, as well as the complexity of the components involved in the task. Reliability and validity studies are not conclusive with these tests; therefore, therapists should be careful not to use these exclusively when making decisions about intervention and eligibility (Feder & Majnemer, 2003). The same can be said about the use of all standardized tests in school-based therapy and with students with ASD. Best practice involves use of a variety of methods to perform comprehensive evaluations, including standardized measures, observation, functional skill assessment, and/or teacher/parent interviews.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Handwriting Assessment (MHA) Reisman (1999)</td>
<td>6–7</td>
<td>Norm-referenced; clinician-administered Near-point copy assessment of manuscript writing Scores rate, legibility, form, alignment, size, spacing</td>
<td>2.5 min.</td>
<td>None</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*In years except where noted.


Research
None
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References
