

WPS March 2, 2022, Webinar Q&A:

Assessing Sensory Integration and Processing in Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

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1. Is the SPM used by occupational therapists (OTs) or school psychologists?

It can be used by a variety of professionals.

2. Will the SPM-2 give recommendations or interventions for identified needs?

You would need to use the SPM-2 Quick Tips for intervention recommendations.

3. Is the manual the same for all?

Yes, the Manual is the same for all age ranges. The SPM-2 Quick Tips are grouped by age.

4. Our program is currently using the SPM-P and we work almost exclusively with 3- to 5-year-olds. Does it make sense for us to begin using the SPM-2 instead? We are mental health clinicians who use this primarily for screening purposes and determining whether to make a referral to OT services.

The best practice would be to use the most recent edition, as the SPM-2 has new forms available for those 4 months through 87 years of age.

5. What is the external validity for the use of WPS assessments in Europe?

The research department can answer that best. Please reach out to research@wpspublish.com.

6. Do you have SPM-2 forms in Spanish?

Yes. To get these forms, visit <https://www.wpspublish.com/spm-2> and click on the form tab. You will see the Spanish versions listed in the available options.

7. We would like to use the SPM-2 with staff working in a respite center with the adolescent because he spends a lot of time there; will you share which forms we should use?

Each rater would complete the form that corresponds to their setting. You can then make various comparisons once scored.

Here are the recommended forms for each person based on setting/context:

Home form: by Parent and by Practitioner-Respite

School form: by Teacher and by Practitioner-OT (if providing services primarily in the school and none at the respite)

Comparison of the various forms can be done in various ways, either on OES or paper.

Home/School

Home (completed by Parent) and Teacher (completed by Teacher)

Home (completed by Parent) and Teacher (completed by Practitioner-OT)

Home/Respite/School

Home (completed by Practitioner-Respite) and Home (completed by Parent)

Home (completed by Practitioner-Respite) and Teacher (completed by Teacher)

Home (completed by Practitioner-Respite) and Teacher (completed by Practitioner-OT)

School

Teacher (completed by Teacher) and Teacher (completed by Practitioner-OT)

8. My question is regarding selection between the Adolescent or Adult versions of the SPM-2 when the individual is 21. The graph in the presentation states the Adolescent version goes up to 21, and then the Adult starts at 21. When thinking about the *t*-scores and interpretations, what additional criteria would we use to determine if we use the Adolescent or Adult version with a 21-year-old?

This was considered in the standardization, and you can be confident that even if you select one form or the other, the results will be valid. Refer to the Alternate-Forms Reliability explanation in the Manual on page 103.

9. Does the online scoring system give you interpretations and graphics, like the Sensory Profile 2 does?

Yes, you will have a report generated that includes a narrative to explain results, as well as graphs and tables with the respective scores.

10. To use the Adult forms an individual must be able to rate themselves, correct? If that is the case, what about instances of individuals who are 21+ but have severe disabilities and are unable to? Can we still use the Adolescent forms in these cases?

With adults, you have the option to use self-report or rater report forms.

11. I work with children from Pre-K to 21. Would I have to buy an online kit for Preschool, Child, and Adolescent?

You can start with one online kit for the age range that you anticipate using most and then purchase additional uses and Quick Tips for the other ranges. Keep in mind that only the Preschool and Child versions are currently available.

12. Is the printable PDF color-coded like the print version?

Yes, it is also color-coded.

13. Are there percentiles provided to quantify these categories?

Yes, there are percentiles. See page 27 of the Manual. This score represents the percentage of those in the normative sample who scored lower (i.e., had fewer problems) than the client; another way to say this is that the child had more challenges than 90% of the children in the normative sample.

14. Can you have online rating forms but hard copy Manual and Quick Tips?

Yes, you have the flexibility to order what works best for your assessment needs.

15. Can the SPM-2 be used to identify sensory sensitivities in people who do not have a diagnosed developmental disability?

Yes, it is appropriate for those with and without diagnoses to help identify sensory integration and processing challenges.

16. Does the Manual show what different profiles look like? I often need to figure out if I am looking at autism and intellectual disability. I am wondering if in the data collection there are profiles of certain disabilities to help distinguish the differences. For instance, on the BRIEF-2, if a child does not exhibit significant difficulties with inhibition control, the child is typically identified as ADHD-inattentive type. Is the data on the SPM-2 also great at

identifying which sensory difficulties are often seen in AU individuals and which are often seen in ID students?

Profiles are unique to each individual; they are not related to the diagnosis. There are case examples in the Manual as well as resources on the WPS website.

17. Is there a standardized administration for clients who are deaf or hard of hearing? For profoundly deaf clients, can we omit the hearing scale and still get valid/helpful results?

Individuals with hearing impairments were included in the clinical sample. See page 90 of the Manual, as well as the explanation of the Hearing Scale on page 29.

18. Does the SPM-2 offer suggested accommodations depending on the sensory sensitivity?

Please refer to the Quick Tips for suggested accommodations.

19. What is the recommendation for time between administrations? Is there a minimum?

The time between testing and retest was as low as 2 weeks, but that is not recommended.

20. Can an OT with a bachelor's degree use the SPM-2?

Please refer to the Qualifications Guidelines on the WPS page: https://ecom-cdn.wpspublish.com/prod/media/pdf/QualificationGuidelines_021821.pdf.

21. So, based on your response, the SPM-2 does not help you distinguish between AU and ID? Just that an individual has sensory processing difficulties?

The SPM-2 includes case examples, but keep in mind that each person is unique and sensory processing challenges can exist across diagnoses.

22. Do you recommend having the School and Environment Forms together for school-based assessment?

It is best to gather as much input as possible to get a clear picture of an individual's functionality and the challenges they face.

23. What are the sensory categories labeled on the assessment?

The categories include vision, hearing, touch, taste and smell, body awareness, balance and motion, planning and ideas, and social participation.

24. Can you use paper assessment forms but the online scoring system?

You would not want to use the paper assessment and the Online Evaluation System (OES), as that would consume two uses. It is recommended that you use the OES and print the PDF, returning online to score. That way you don't consume two uses of your paper and online inventory.

25. Who is the Canadian distributor?

Please refer to Amanda Wynn (awynn@wpspublish.com) for international information.

26. Does this assess for modulation disorder as comprehensively as the SPM?

The SPM-2 does allow you to identify challenges with respect to the different vulnerabilities, which include modulation challenges with over- and under-reactivity.

27. I would like to hear Dr. Jackson's thoughts behind requiring a master's degree in OT to administer. Seems like there are many of us with bachelor's degrees and 25+ years of experience who are more than qualified.

Please refer to the Qualification Guidelines on the WPS website (https://ecom-cdn.wpspublish.com/prod/media/pdf/QualificationGuidelines_021821.pdf). The SPM-2 requires Level C qualification, which means a master's degree in certain fields with no additional training or a bachelor's degree in certain fields with additional training.

28. Are the descriptions different from the SPM-1?

The descriptors/scales are the same, although the abbreviations did change.

29. Would it be allowable to provide the SPM at the child/student's developmental age? For example, a 12-year-old who is cognitively performing at 4-year-old developmental age?

No; age is to be determined based on DOB and the setting.

30. The SPM-2 is not a "test-retest" (outcomes tool), similar to the SPM first edition, correct? Rather, with the additional age ranges, you have opportunities to assess at more time periods when you're trying to evaluate to make intervention decisions. Specifically, I'm not using this tool to see if there is a change in their sensory processing as a result of intervention. Rather, it's used to help inform intervention planning, correct?

You can use the SPM-2 for progress monitoring; test-retest was conducted at 2 weeks. Please see the Manual on pages 96–97.

31. Are Quick Tips available now? Do these tips print out with the online scored forms, so they're specialized for the specific students?

You can personally go in to customize after you administer the SPM-2. Only Preschool and Child Quick Tips are currently available.

32. Can you use the SPM-2 to assess sensory difficulties specifically among the dementia population?

You can use the SPM-2 across the lifespan. If the respondent cannot complete the report, ask the person who best knows the client to complete it. Then you can use the results once the Adult Quick Tips are available to recommend strategies.

33. Is it contraindicated to administer the SPM-2 and SPM?

There are no contraindications for administering both. You need to understand how to interpret the results of each, what the scores mean, and how they impact function.

34. Is the SPM-2 normed for students with autism or other developmental disabilities?

There were clinical samples that included individuals with identified diagnoses, such as autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disorders.

35. Is it appropriate to use the SPM-2 with students with ADHD?

Yes, because sensory processing and integration concerns can be present in individuals with various diagnoses.

36. Please restate where the Quick Tips are located and how to access them after you score a report! Thanks again so much!

Visit our YouTube channel to watch the WPS Quick Tips video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkHkGpHRm6A&t=16s> regarding your question.

37. If an individual drops out of high school but is under the age of 21, should I still use the Adolescent forms, or do I bump them up to the Adult forms?

Use the form corresponding to their age. The Adolescent form should be used for individuals who are 12 to 21 years old.

38. Can I share this webinar?

Yes, please do! Here is a link to the recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdK8zwbpFSo>.