

RAVEN'S STANDARD PROGRESSIVE MATRICES - PLUS VERSION AND MILL HILL VOCABULARY SCALES

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

What are the Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices - Plus Version (SPM+) and Mill Hill Vocabulary Scales (MHV)?

The SPM+ and MHV are designed to provide brief nonverbal and verbal screening measures of general ability respectively for children aged 7 to 18 years of age.

The SPM+ is made up of diagrammatic puzzles that are designed to assess, with greater precision, the intellectual processes of young children and adolescents. It can be used satisfactorily with people who come from different cultural backgrounds, speak different languages or who have language difficulties.

The MHV is designed for use with the SPM+. It assesses the knowledge of words and is constructed to cover as closely as possible the same age range of intellectual development as the SPM+.

The tests have a long history in the UK and have recently been restandardised for our population.

The SPM+ and MHV have applications:

- as nonverbal (SPM+) and verbal (MHV) screening measures of general ability for children and adolescents
- as a nonverbal tool that can provide a fairer measure of ability for children from diverse populations with different language and cultural backgrounds (SPM+)
- as a nonverbal measure for children with hearing difficulties (SPM+)
- as a fairer assessment for children who experience disorders of language abilities (SPM+)
- as a screening measure to aid in the assessment of children who may have learning difficulties (SPM+ and MHV)
- in combination, as a tool to measure the difference between verbal and nonverbal aspects of general ability (SPM+ and MHV)

What will happen when my child takes the test?

On the SPM+ task they will be asked to choose the missing piece in a pattern from a number of choices.

On the MHV they will be asked to write the meaning of some words. The person assessing your child will decide to give both tests, or just the SPM+ or MHV on their own. This choice will depend on the purposes of the assessment.

The children will be using pencil and paper to record their answers. The assessment will be carried out in a group or individual setting, depending on the purpose of the assessment.

The assessment will take 60 to 90 minutes to complete (approximately 45 minutes for the SPM+ and 35 minutes for the MHV).

What results will the test give?

The results will give information about your child's performance relative to other children in the UK general population. The results can be used in a number of ways and will depend on the purpose of the assessment. Results could help define any special needs a child may have, may serve as a baseline against which to compare performance over a school year, to assess a child's strengths and weaknesses and so forth.

If you have any questions about the test or the results this should be discussed with the person conducting the assessment.