

TOL: Tower of London Task

Full Profile Review

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Name of the measure

TOL: Tower of London Task

Author(s) / Publisher(s)

- English original (GB)

Author: T. Shallice.

Age Range

3-7 years

Age Range Information

The test can be used on children from 3 years old and up.

SEL Skills targeted

Self-management

Scales and Subscales

“There are multiple versions of the tower tasks. The over riding feature of each is the requirement that the individual solves a problem by moving the pieces and arriving at the goal position in the least number of moves. Tower tasks are most commonly used to measure planning ability.

Planning refers to the ability to look ahead through a series of possible steps, some of which may be counterintuitive, to reach a desired goal. The ability to plan is an essential part of daily living, and difficulties with this skill may impact on an individual’s autonomy.” (McKinlay, 2011).

Sources of information

Child

Formats for administration

Direct assessment

Administration

Required materials:

Three wooden pegs of three different lengths mounted on a strip of wood and three coloured balls (red, green, blue) that are manipulated on pegs to reproduce a pictured end state.

Or

A computer with the required programming script.

Time: The trials can either be timed according to the administrator, or untimed. The time required would vary depending on the implemented conditions.

It is administered individually.

Scoring

Manual, Electronic

Scoring information

Scoring is electronic, done automatically by the program.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Measures planning and problem solving skills in children. It can be used to observe the way in which children's problem solving skills develop over time.

Other Relevant Information

Lezak, M. D. (1995). *Neuropsychological assessment* (3rd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

McKinlay, A. (2011). Tower Tasks. In S. Goldstein & J. A. Naglieri (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Child Behavior and Development* (pp. 1496–1499). Springer US. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-79061-9_2932

Shallice, T. (1982). Specific impairments of planning. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences*, 298(1089), 199–209.

Citation

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