

Diagnostic Adaptive Behavior Scale

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) invites you to become a member of the standardization team for the Diagnostic Adaptive Behavior Scale (DABS).

The DABS will provide a comprehensive assessment of an individual's current adaptive behavior. The DABS will focus on the diagnosis of intellectual disability. Based on the AAIDD's definition of adaptive behavior (Luckasson et al., 2002), the DABS measures the following three domains: conceptual, social, and practical skills.

The DABS is completed via interview between a professional and one or more respondents. We invite you to become a DABS Interviewer. The data that you will provide will help us meet our goal of standardizing the DABS. These data will also enable us to evaluate the psychometric properties of the instrument. Your participation will contribute to the development of this premier assessment instrument.

➤ Who Can be a DABS Interviewer?

A professional who has completed at least a Bachelor's degree and has had previous assessment experience:

- Clinical Psychologist
- Counselor
- Graduate Student*
- Neuropsychologist
- Psychometrician/Psychometrists
- School Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Teacher

* *Supervised graduate students of these professions may participate if they have successfully completed an assessment course.*

➤ Who Finds the Individuals to Assess (Person-assessed) on the DABS?

We are looking for individuals from the general population (with and without disabilities) between the ages of 4 and 21 years. We are also interested in recruiting a large sub-group of individuals with MILD intellectual disability (formerly mental retardation). Interviewers will be asked to find candidates to assess and respective respondents. It will be important that we obtain DABS data on individuals from diverse ethnic/racial and socioeconomic backgrounds.

➤ How Long Will it Take to Administer the DABS?

The estimated administration time for the DABS Interview is between 60 to 90 minutes. You will not need to score the DABS.

➤ How Long Will the Project Last?

Data collection for the standardization of the DABS began in January, 2008 and will continue through May, 2009.

➤ Who is Eligible to be Assessed on the DABS?

- The **Person-assessed** (i.e., the individual whose adaptive behavior is evaluated using the DABS) must be between the ages of 4 and 21 years (inclusively). Please obtain written consent from the legal guardian for examinees between the ages of 4 – 17 years. For persons-assessed aged 18 and older, please make sure they have the capacity to self consent. We are recruiting for individuals with and without disabilities. We are also over-sampling for individuals with MILD intellectual disability (AKA mild mental retardation; IQ 50 – 70).

- The **Respondent** providing the information for completing the DABS should know the person-assessed very well and have had the opportunity to observe this person on a daily or weekly basis, preferably in a variety of settings, and over an extended period of time.
- **Respondents** should be adults and may be selected from family members, friends, teachers, employers/colleagues, or others who know the person-assessed well.
- We do not want the person-assessed to provide a self-report (i.e., be a respondent for his own adaptive behavior).

➤ **Has the Project Received Ethics Approval?**

The Principal Investigator on this project (Dr. Marc J. Tassé) is on faculty at the University of South Florida. The University of South Florida's (USF) Institutional Review Board (IRB) has reviewed and approved this project (IRB# 105932G). The USF IRB has also reviewed and approved our participant consent forms (Person-assessed, Parental Consent (if appropriate), Respondent, and Interviewer). We will provide you with all the necessary consent forms to be completed and signed by all participants.

➤ **A Complete and Usable DABS Includes ALL of the Following:**

- Completed and signed consent forms for: Person-assessed, Parental/guardian (if appropriate), Respondent(s), and Interviewer (only one signed consent form per interviewer is needed).
- A complete (including ALL demographic information) and correctly administered DABS protocol.
- Completed **Interviewer Enrollment Form**.
- All above materials/documents must be received by the deadline on the confirmation letter.

➤ **Do I Get Paid as an Interviewer?**

Interviewers will receive a \$10.00 Gift Card per complete and usable DABS. You should receive your Gift Card approximately 4 to 6 weeks after we receive the complete and usable DABS.

➤ **How Else Will My Contribution Be Recognized?**

We will also recognize all Interviewers by including their names in the User's Manual that accompanies the DABS when it is published.

KEEP THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS

Do not hesitate to call or email us if you have any questions or need additional information:

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813-974-1360

AAIDD DABS ad hoc Committee:

Marc J. Tassé, PhD (Chairman), University of South Florida; **Robert L. Schalock, PhD (Co-chairman)**, Hastings College; **Giulia Balboni, PhD**, Università della Valle d'Aosta – Italy; **Hank Bersani, Jr., PhD.**, Western Oregon University; **Sharon A. Borthwick-Duffy, PhD** ; University of California – Riverside; **Julia Scherba de Valenzuela, PhD**, University of New Mexico; **Scott Spreat, EdD**, Woodland Center for Challenging Behaviors; **David M. Thissen, PhD**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; **Keith F. Widaman, PhD**, University of California – Davis; **Dalun Zhang, PhD**, Texas A&M University.