Description:

The Common Phrases Test was developed to assess understanding of familiar phrases spoken in everyday situations. This test was motivated by the notion that children would recognize familiar phrases better than monosyllabic words in an open-set format. There are six lists and each list has 10 items. The test uses an open-set format. The phrases are declarative statements or questions that contain simple syntactic structures and vocabulary familiar to young profoundly hearing-impaired children. The test can be administered in three conditions: audition-only, vision-only, and audition-plus-vision.

Test Administration:

The test is administered with a live-voice presentation. A mesh screen can be used to cover the examiner’s face when each item is presented in the audition-only condition. This enables the examiner to face the child without providing visual cues to the target. The screen can be made with loud-speaker material stretched over an embroidery hoop (this material can be purchased at stores, such as Radio Shack). It is important to hold the screen over the face the same amount of time for each test item, otherwise, the child might use a time discrepancy as a cue in identifying the items.

As with any other live-voice testing, present each sentence only once. If the child asks for a repetition and was clearly listening, tell him or her you cannot repeat the item and that he or she should guess. If the child refuses, you may repeat the item once, but it will then be scored as incorrect. Note on the sheet how the child responded and that a repetition was provided. If a child is distracted or was not paying attention, items can be repeated. Remind the child that it is important to try to understand the item the first time that it is presented. Use a clear, natural style of speaking. It is important not to exaggerate mouth movements when testing in the vision-only or auditory-plus-vision condition. Also, it is preferable to have the child turn off his or her sensory aid, rather than using no voice, when only visual cues are presented.

The examiner gives the following instructions:

“I’m going to say some short sentences, and I want you to say exactly the same thing that I say. I might say something about your school, your family, or maybe about your birthday. Or, I might ask you to do something like turn around or snap your fingers. Remember, you repeat the same thing that I say. If you don’t know the whole sentence, that’s fine. Just repeat any of the words you can - and it’s okay to guess.” Some children may choose to answer the questions. For example, a child might answer “pink” in response to the question, “What is your favorite color?” The child is given credit for the question if this happens. Also, if the child correctly executes the action following a command, such as “jump up and down,” the item is scored as correct.

If the child doesn’t seem to understand the response format, reinstruct, or use other practice items to be sure the child fully knows what is expected of him or her. Once the child does, begin the testing. Record the child’s response by writing down what the child says or does, then score plus or minus. Tally the total number of correct and incorrect sentences in each condition. Score either 1 (for completely correct) or 0 (if any errors in sentence). Because the phrases are familiar, we require the child to repeat the entire item correctly to receive credit for an item. However, you may decide to give partial credit for a partially correct response.
COMMON PHRASES

Subject Name/Code ______________________________  Date __________
Device ___________    Interval _________  Examiner _______________

List A

Condition _______________

1. When is your birthday?
2. I like ice cream.
3. Wait for me!
4. Open the door.
5. What is your favorite t.v. show?
6. I'll call you.
7. I'm fine.
8. What did you eat for breakfast?
9. Clap your hands.
10. Clean your room.

List B

Condition _______________

1. What color are your eyes?
2. It's nice to meet you.
3. Where are you going?
4. Time to listen.
5. Change your clothes.
6. That's okay.
7. I'll help you.
8. What do you like to play?
9. Say "Happy Birthday."
10. Close the door.
COMMON PHRASES

Subject Name/Code ______________________________  Date __________
Device ___________    Interval _________  Examiner _______________

List C

Condition ___________

1. What time is it?
2. See you later!
3. Let's go outside.
4. How old are you?
5. Turn around.
6. Drink your milk.
7. It is hot/cold outside.
8. What is your friend's name?
9. Stop it.
10. Wash your hands.

List D

Condition ___________

1. What is your teacher's name?
2. Time for bed.
3. It's my turn.
4. Count to ten.
5. Eat your dinner.
6. Please be quiet.
7. Let me do it.
8. What is your favorite color?
9. I'm tired.
10. Where are your fingers?
COMMON PHRASES

Subject Name/Code ______________________________  Date __________
Device ___________    Interval _________  Examiner _______________

List E

Condition _______________

1. What do you like to eat?
2. Time for lunch.
3. Turn off the TV.
4. What color is your hair?
5. Where do you live?
6. I’m hungry.
7. Do your homework.
8. It is raining outside.
9. Watch out!
10. Today is____(day of the week).

List F

Condition _______________

1. Where do you go to school?
2. Combs your hair.
3. Take your time!
4. What do you like to drink?
5. Where is your Mom/Dad?
6. I’m thirsty.
7. I like french fries.
8. Tell me your name.
9. Sit down.