



Handwriting Assessment

Chronological Age: 9 years 9 months

Evaluator: Raquel O., MS OTR/L

Date of Evaluation: 01/19/2023

Assessments Utilized:

The Beery Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration (VMI)

The WOLD sentence copying test

Clinical Observation

The child was assessed for handwriting challenges. The assessment took place in his room with his mother present. He completed all tasks from the desk he typically uses when completing writing assignments.

The Beery Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration (VMI) assesses skills that are the foundation for writing. It consists of three subtests that measure skills relating to motor coordination, visual perception, and the integration of the visual and motor systems. These tasks also rely upon cognitive skills, as well as visual analysis skills. The scores on the visual motor integration (copying increasingly complex forms) and visual perception subtest (matching forms) were in the low average range. The score on motor coordination (drawing within increasingly complex mazes) was in the very low range. **The scores may be due to visual motor and perceptual deficits that have not been diagnosed. This may contribute to handwriting and spatial organization challenges.**

The WOLD sentence copying test assists in determining if the child has the ability to rapidly and accurately copy a sentence from the top to the bottom of the page. He completed this evaluation tool within an age-appropriate timeframe. However, he had difficulty with spacing his letters and remaining on the lines. He also misspelled a word and missed a letter.

An informal assessment was provided in which he copied a paragraph from approximately six inches away. Similar to the results of the WOLD, he used excessive spacing, demonstrated decreased legibility, and had difficulty writing on the lines. Some of the letters were not complete or omitted. He also paused several times as he lost his place when writing/copying.

Throughout the evaluation, he sat with his trunk flexed over the desk as he wrote. He leaned his head and trunk to the right most of the time. Having a small stool to stabilize his feet may provide more stability and improve his posture while writing.

He often used excessive spacing between the letters in words and needed to use sufficient space between each word; this makes it challenging to read and decipher his work. He writes quickly, and this may help him record his thoughts and ensure he does not forget his ideas. It may benefit him to produce an outline of his ideas, which will assist with his working memory and allow him to slow down and write more legibly.

He was attentive and focused on each task. He did require rest breaks due to fatigue. He rubbed his right eye several times and reported his eyes “felt tired.” He stated that he tires easily in classes that require much writing, such as social studies.

His performance on the Beery VMI and subtests may indicate a visual motor/perceptual deficit, and an evaluation with a behavioral optometrist would assist with these concerns. Additionally, the forward flexion position when writing could be indicative of decreased core strength, therefore incorporating exercises to strengthen his trunk muscles may improve his posture and stamina while completing written assignments.

Handwriting Goals:

1. He will use letter formation using the handwriting without tears method consistently to assist with legibility and efficiency. At present, he appears to write most of his letters with consistency.
2. He will improve the spatial organization of his written work, using adequate spacing between the letters and words.
3. He will slow his writing to ensure he is forming his letters completely, more legibly, and focusing on his spatial organization.
4. He will recopy his written work and focus on improving his penmanship and punctuation using capital letters when needed.
5. He will consistently write on the lines and within the boundaries provided.

I certify that I personally evaluated the above-named child, employing age-appropriate instruments and procedures as well as informed clinical opinion. I have reviewed the results of this evaluation with the mother and they report that the findings are consistent with their child’s behavior and level of functioning.