

Technology

Instrument: Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) III—Youth

Scale/Subscale Name: Technology

Source: <http://www.casey.org/resources/> , <http://lifeskills.casey.org/>

Developers: Casey Family Programs, 1300 Dexter Avenue North, Floor 3
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Year: 2009, (Version 4.0)

Target Audience(s): Youth, ages 13 to 15

Language other than English available: Spanish, French

Type: Behavior

Data collected: Quantitative

Data collection format: Self report – Pre/post

Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade level: Not available

Existence of test/technical manuals, user guides, supplemental materials:

Instrument and other information can be found at <http://lifeskills.casey.org/> Also see user guide, from below references

Level of training necessary for administration/scoring/interpretation: None necessary for administration. Minimal knowledge of measurement needed for scoring and interpretation.

Widespread Use/Professional Endorsements: Widely utilized tool, especially for at-risk, disability and foster care populations; frequently listed as recommended tool for transition planning assessment; frequently cited in literature.

Cost of Use: No cost is associated with the use of this instrument.

Description:

- The ACLSA is a measure of life skills acquisition, available in youth self-report and caregiver report formats. The assessment consists of four developmental levels: ACLSA-I (ages 8-9), ACLSA-II (ages 10-12), ACLSA-III (ages 13-15), and ACLSA-IV (ages 16 and older).
- The youth format contains items to measure self-reported knowledge and behaviors, as well as a brief performance section to test actual knowledge of life skills.
- The caregiver form asks a parent or other adult to rate the youth on the same set of knowledge and behavior items used in the youth self-report. The caregiver form does not have a performance section. There is no caregiver form for ACLSA-IV.
- The ACLSA takes about 20 to 30 minutes to complete, depending on the ACLSA level and reading level of the respondent.
- Paper or on-line versions, 87 (instrument), 5 (Technology subscale), 3-pt Likert items; on-line version—automatic scoring and report, paper version—hand-scoring guide available from developer.
- The ACLSA, version 4.0, is composed of five to six domains, depending on ACLSA level. The domains include: Communication, Self-Care, Social Relationships, Work Life, Housing & Money Management and Daily Living. Within a domain, items tap a variety of skills and practical knowledge.

Psychometrics:

Information on reliability and validity are provided below. If information on a particular psychometric was not found, it is indicated as “no information provided.” It should be noted that this is not necessarily an indication of a lack of reliability or validity within a particular scale/instrument, but rather a lack of rigorous testing, for various reasons, by the developers or other researchers.

Reliability: *A correlation of at least .80 is suggested for at least one type of reliability as evidence; however, standards range from .5 to .9 depending on the intended use and context for the instrument.*

**Psychometric information is based on previous version of instrument--ACLSA, 3.0.

Internal Consistency: Overall alpha--.94; domains range from 0.82 to 0.90.

Inter-Rater Reliability: No information provided

Test-Retest: Second administration ranged from .80 to .91

Validity: *The extent to which a measure captures what it is intended to measure.*

Content/Face Validity: Comprehensive description of content (life skills) domain and development process; collaboratively developed over years by experts in the field as well as youth and parents.

Criterion Validity: Several studies indicated that ACLSA is related to a criterion measurement of a similar construct.

Construct Validity: Evidence suggests the ACLSA is sensitive enough to portray differences in ability.

References:

Ansell, D., Morse, J., Nollan, K. & Hoskins, R. (2004). *Life Skills Guidebook*. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs.

Bressani, R., & Downs, A. (2002). Youth independent living assessment: testing the equivalence of web and paper/pencil versions of the Ansell–Casey Life Skills Assessment. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 18(4), 453.

Nollan, K. A., Downs, A. C, Pecora, P. &, Horn, M. (2002). *Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) and Lifeskills Guidebook Manual*. Seattle, WA: The Casey Family Program.

Nollan, K., Wolf, M., Ansell, D., Bums, J., Barr, L., Copeland, W., et al. (2000). Ready or Not: Assessing Youths' Preparedness for Independent Living. *Child Welfare*, 79(2), 159.