ESI-P

Early Screening Inventory-Preschool

Developed by Meisels, Wiske, Henderson, Marsden & Browning

What is screening?

- Developmental screening is a brief assessment procedure designed to identify children who might be at risk for a possible learning problem or delay

- Screening looks at children by quickly sampling their skills across areas of language, reasoning, gross motor, fine motor, and social development

- Screening is different from readiness tests in that it measures skills acquired largely by maturation rather than by experience and practice (although in the case of the ESI, there are a few items that measure skills that are more readiness focused-- counting, naming colors)

- Screening is always the first step in the assessment process-- it does not provide enough information to identify children as needing special education services

Recommended Steps for using a Screening Device

☑ If screening results fall in the "refer" category, use a diagnostic assessment to determine the existence of delay/disability (psychologists, clinicians, child study team)

☑ Develop and implement the individualized education plan (parents, teachers, child study team)

About the ESI-P (3, 4, & 5)

- It's very easy and quick to administer
- It's standardized on a large, diverse group of children from all ethnicities and socio economic backgrounds
- It over- instead of under-identifies that there might be a problem so you're not likely to miss kids
- Children's performance on the ESI-R is highly correlated with the cognitive section of the McCarthy Scales of Children's Abilities
- It tends to focus on developmental rather than experience-based attainments

- It measures three main areas:
    - Visual-Motor/Adaptive (block building, drawing, copying forms)
    - Language and Cognition (verbal expression and memory)
    - Gross Motor (jumping, hopping and other physical coordination tasks
- There are two versions; Preschool, ages 3 to 4 1/2, and Kindergarten, ages 4 1/2 to 6
- The instrument takes 15-20 minutes to administer to each individual child
- There are 25 different items

- For each item, the child receives from 0-3 points
- Subscales are not scored-- only the total score is used when interpreting results
- The ESI-R comes with a Parent Questionnaire, asking for similar information to that gathered by the enrollment form (with a few extra questions about child's development and interests)

- **The instrument is usually administered after the first few weeks of school, and should be completed by six weeks.**

What types of scores does the ESI produce?

Age Range	Refer	Rescreen	OK
3.0-3.5	8 or less	9-13	14 or more
3.6-3.11	13 or less	14-15	16 or more
4.0-4.5	18 or less	19-20	21 or more

The ESI yields three scores: Refer, Rescreen and OK. These scores are interpreted differently, depending on the age group.

Interpreting the Scores

- **Refer**-- children may be at risk for delay/disability-- refer for an in-depth, complete assessment

- **Rescreen**-- use the screening again in 8 to 10 weeks to determine if the screening was accurate (also gather info from teachers and parents to help determine next steps)

- **OK**-- child appears to developing normally

Involving Parents

- Let parents know about the screening before and after it happens
- It is recommended that parents of children who fall into rescreen or refer categories be contacted directly (phone or meeting)
- Parents should know
  - What the screening is
  - How it will be used
  - Where and when it will take place
  - What the results mean

Important Details

- Rapport is critical-- make sure child is comfortable-- let child play with the screening materials if he or she seems anxious (build in extra time for rapport)
- Use the words in the manual as much as possible, but try to be conversational
- Try to use a relatively quiet environment for the screening
- Calculate the child's "rounded age" prior to getting started (see p.12 of the manual). Children ages 4.0- 4.5 will be asked to do certain activities that children ages 3.0-3.11 will not
- If a child refuses more than three tasks, the overall score is invalid. Try again later.

Items just for children ages 4.0-4.5
--as outlined on the score sheet

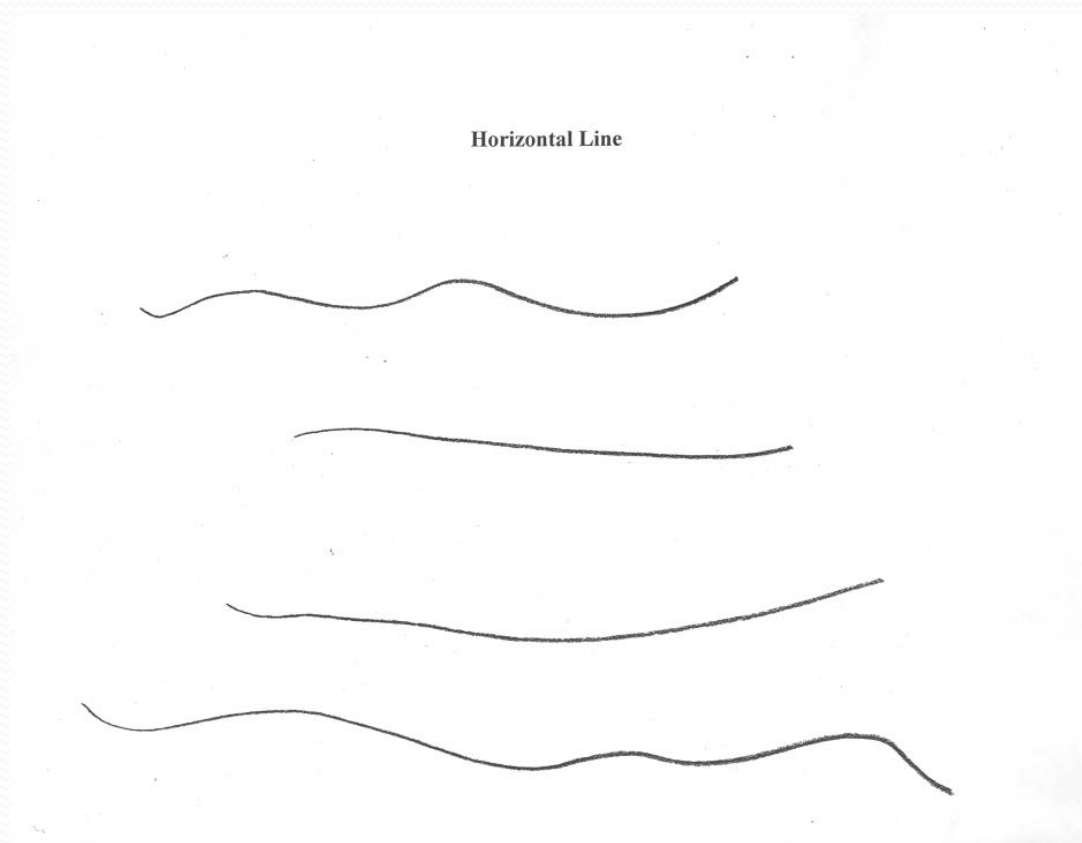| Item Number	Activity
IA3	Gate by imitation
IC	Draw a person
IIA2	Five block counting
III3	Hop

Steps to Screening

☑ Gather your materials in a bag or box

☑ Calculate the child's age (see page 12 in the manual) and get the score sheet ready (the first few times you administer the screening, use a pencil to cross out any items you won't be administering)

☑ Find your location and get the materials ready

☑   Tell the child that you are going to play some games together, and get started. Stick to the script on the score sheet as much as possible.

☑   Use the score sheet as the child responds to each item by circling the appropriate number of points, "Fail" or "Refuse"

☑Take the time to make comments as you go so that you can look back when doing the final scoring

☑Go back and complete any un-scored items (e.g. for copy forms items

☑Total up the score and refer to the chart to see where child falls

☑Advise parents of results and refer for more detailed assessment (with parent permission), or set up time for re-screening if appropriate
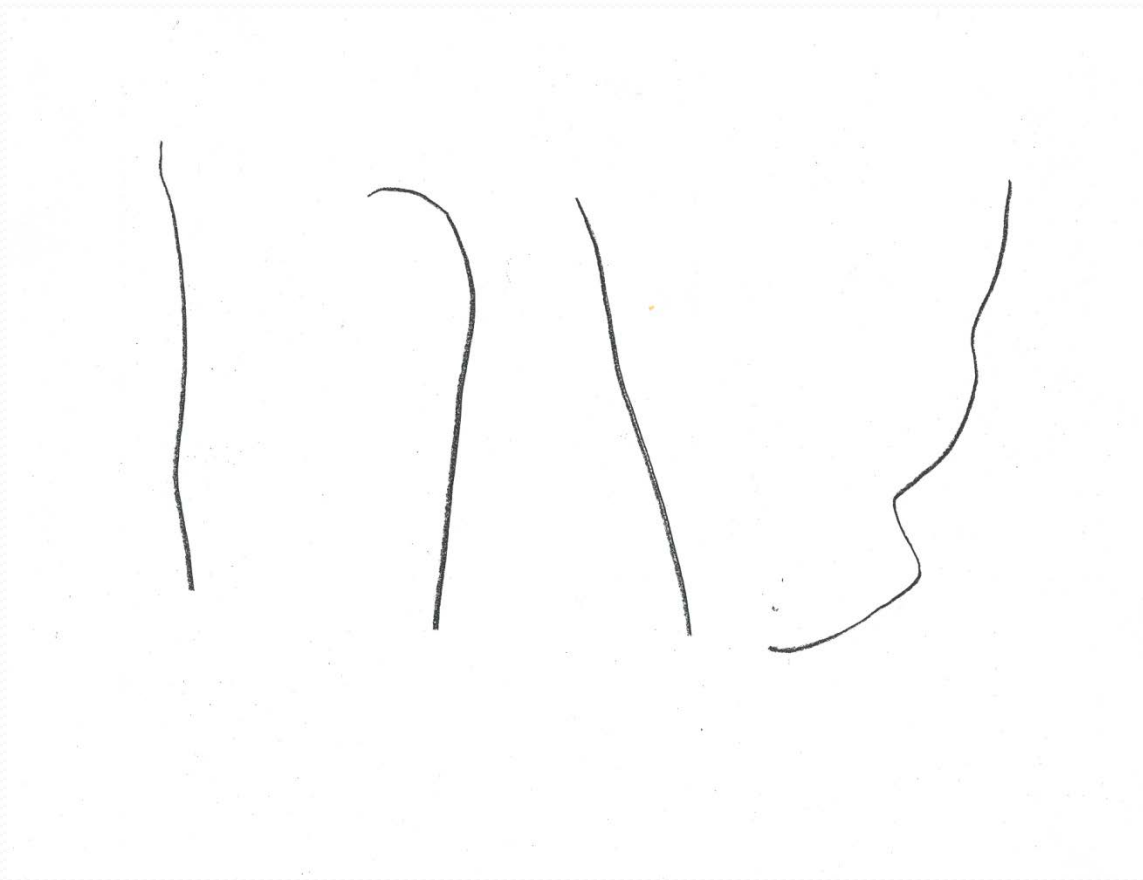
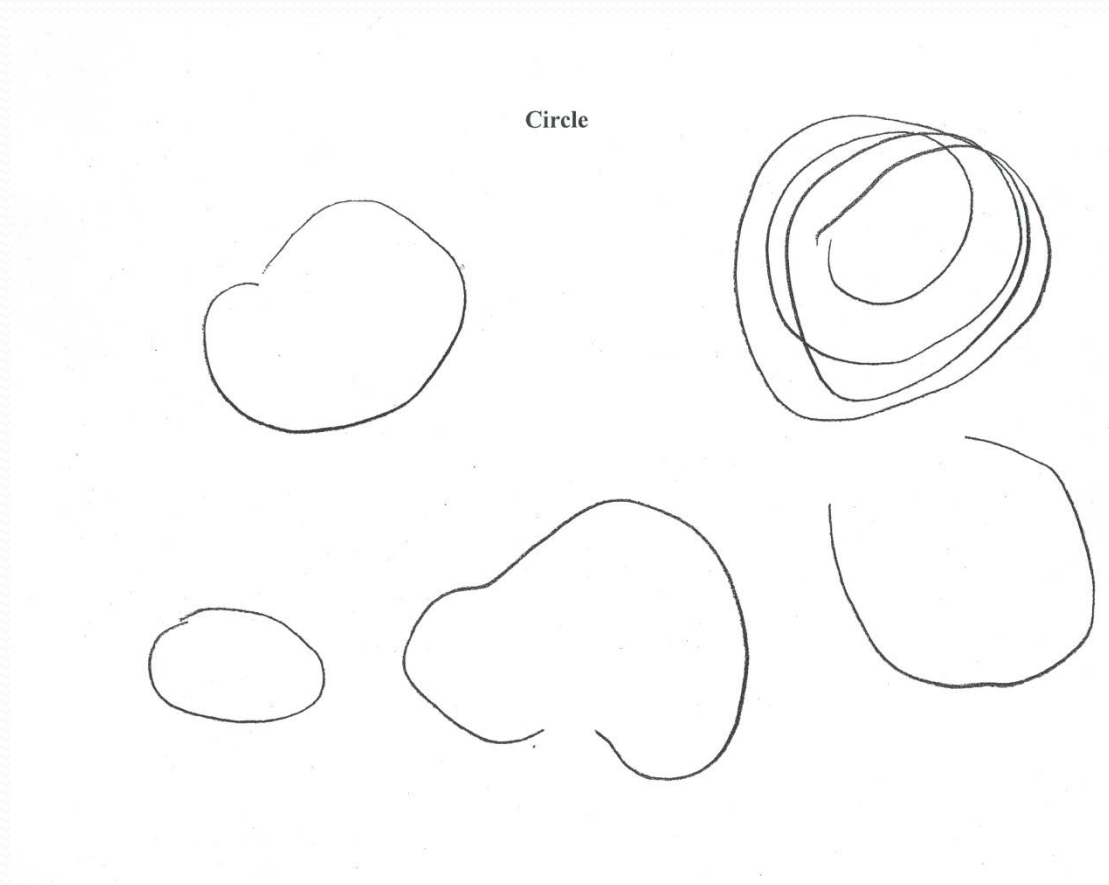# Horizontal Line

Use the manual to score

Horizontal Line

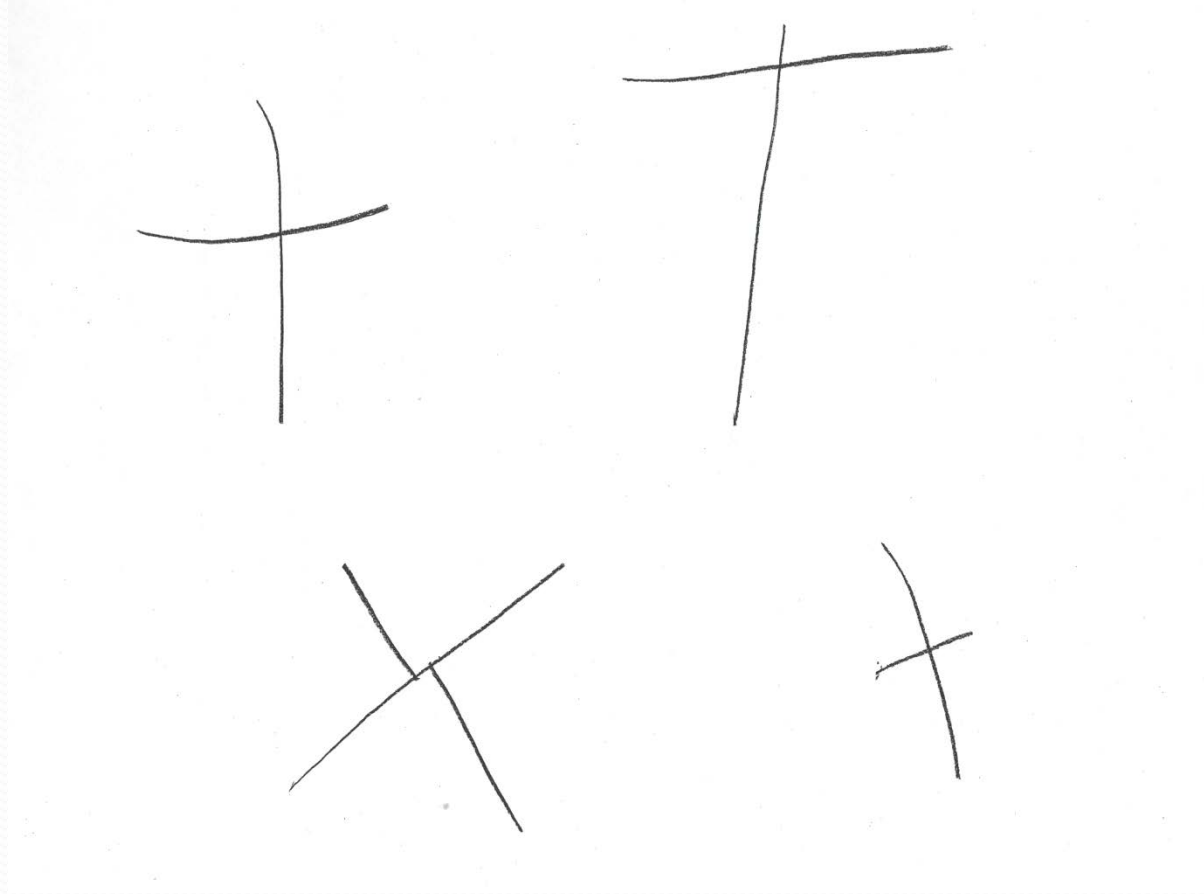# Vertical Line

Use the manual to score

Circle

Use the manual to score

Circle

Cross

Use the manual to score

Draw a Person

Use the manual to score

Draw a Person