

An Investigation of the Validity of the Communication Complexity Scale

Student Investigator: Megan Burgardt

Mentor: Nancy Brady

Validity is an important component to consider when using a new measure. It refers to the ability of the instrument to measure what it should be measuring. The purpose of this study was to test the validity of the Communication Complexity Scale (CCS), a newly-developed communication scale for children with severe or multiple disabilities. The parents of 12 children that were scored on the CCS were contacted and asked to complete a similar on-line test, the Communication Matrix. In addition, videos of four children that were scored on both the CCS and Communication Matrix and one child that was scored by only the CCS were mailed to three Kansas City-area speech-language pathologists. The SLPs were asked to judge the communication level of the children as pre-intentional, intentional, or symbolic. The scores from the CCS, Communication Matrix and SLP's levels were compared.