



ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR: STREET SURVIVAL SKILLS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Street Survival Skills Questionnaire (SSSQ) was designed to provide an objective and reliable method of assessing adaptive behaviors in nine skill areas:

- 1. Basic Concepts**
- 2. Functional Signs**
- 3. Tools**
- 4. Domestic Management**
- 5. Health, Safety & First Aid**
- 6. Public Services**
- 7. Time**
- 8. Money**
- 9. Measurements**

The content of the SSSQ was selected to assess fundamental community living and prevocational skills of adolescents and adults with mild to moderate mental retardation.

Objective and reliable information is obtained by use of a multiple-choice pictorial format that permits sampling of several aspects of adaptive behavior which facilitate living and working in the community.

Such a test format provides high reliability ($r = .97$) and is easy to administer, score and interpret. The relatively short administration time (30-45 minutes) provides descriptive information about the individual's current functional skills in specific areas in a reasonably comprehensive yet efficient manner.

The SSSQ can serve as a baseline measure of adaptive behavior from which an individual program plan may be formulated. In addition, the individual's progress over time may be monitored with periodic reassessment. The effectiveness of various training strategies may also be evaluated by the relative changes in improved functional skills of individuals participating in training or curriculum activities.

A particularly important application of the SSSQ is the prediction of an individual's potential for success in adapting to community living conditions and vocational placement.

The SSSQ manual provides chapters on:

- 1. Purpose and development**
- 2. Reliability and validity**
- 3. Administration, scoring and tables of norms (ages 9-1/2 through adults)**
- 4. Guidelines for interpretation**

The content included in the assessment materials as well as in the Curriculum Guides may be readily implemented in classroom or rehabilitation training programs for teaching prevocational and independent living skills.

The SSSQ is packaged in a sturdy carrying case containing the nine-volume set of picture plates, manual, Curriculum Guides, scoring forms and Master Planning Charts.