

Childrens Rorschachs 2

RE: [Rorschach_List] FQ and Children

Monday, June 2, 2008 8:29 AM

From: "Washington, Aubrey O." <aubreyw@health.ok.gov>

To: Rorschach_List@yahoogroups.com

My experience testing children (mostly 12 and younger) is similar to much of what has been mentioned. That is I generally see much lower FQ than Exner's child norms would suggest. I also see many more references to fantasy/cartoon/ movie characters and monsters. Lambda is often higher and R lower. I have seen quite a few child protocols in which all or virtually all responses were W, often seen as a single object rather than a synthesis (e.g., bug to III or face to X). Some children give substantially more special scores, especially DV, DR, INC, and FAB. I don't give much credence to the standard interpretations of poor FQ or elevated WSum6 unless the responses are also qualitatively strange and there is independent evidence of poor reality testing.

I wonder if some exclusionary criteria used by Exner have resulted in an "abnormal" sample. With some frequency, I find scores that fall outside the range in the tables.

As others have said, *I believe that*

"normal" children have a greater tolerance for a mismatch between a percept and the specific contours of the blot area.

The percept may be based on a specific element or a general impression with little concern about whether everything fits.

The world is a strange and mysterious place to children. Almost every day they discover things they didn't know before, so they don't always know what is possible and what is not. A child may know that a mule is half horse and half donkey; he may even know that a tiger is half lion and half tiger. So, it may seem quite logical for Card IV to be half man and half bear. Such an INCOM would have different implications if given by an adult.

This is not really what you are asking but, I find Exner's procedure for retesting following a short (R<14) protocol to be particularly problematic for children. Many children become discouraged by having to start all over again. This results in a second-round protocol that looks much different (often higher Lambda, lower EA, and generally less elaboration) than the first round would have suggested. I think a better procedure would be to accept the original responses, inform the subject that you need more, and go back through the cards one at a time to get additional responses.

Aubrey

-----Original Message----- From: Rorschach_List@ yahoogroups. com
[mailto:Rorschach_List@ yahoogroups. com]On Behalf Of Kirstin Filizetti
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 10:51 PM To: Rorschach_List@ yahoogroups.
com Subject: [Rorschach_List] FQ and Children

Dear Listmembers,

I am writing on behalf of myself, Don Viglione, and Greg Meyer to ask for input from those who work regularly with children. As some of you may know, we are working on improving Rorschach Form Quality coding and presented some initial findings from adults at the Society for Personality Assessment's annual conference in March 2008.

There are some particular challenges using the Rorschach with children. As was evident in the recent Journal of Personality Assessment Supplement on International Reference Samples for the CS, many nonpatient children produce a surprisingly elevated X-%. As part of our efforts to improve form quality, we are trying to understand what might drive some of the elevations seen with these young respondents. If we can identify perceptual operations that are relatively unique to children, we may be able to create a "child form quality correction factor" that will allow us to better assess perceptual accuracy with children.

So, if you work with children and have the time to offer input, we would appreciate your feedback on the following four questions:

- (1) Do you see responses among children that are relatively frequent or that are obviously not pathological yet get scored as FQ- and FQu? (If you could identify any specific entries in the FQ tables that seem off, that would be quite helpful.)
- (2) In your experience are there common responses that children of a particular age give on the Rorschach that are not as common in an adult population?
- (3) In your experience do children and adults tend to differ with respect to the way they match the shape of response objects to the contours of blot locations?
- (4) Do you have any observations or suggestions for how to more optimally score FQ among children?

Thank you for considering this. We look forward to any input you may be able to offer.

Sincerely,

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