



Pearson

Top Tips for Educational Psychologists

Digital Assessments

Do you feel confident harnessing and using digital assessments in your work assessing children and young people? Independent Educational Psychologist, Dr Batul Daulby, shares 10 top tips on how educational psychologists can embrace digital assessments successfully and achieve impact.

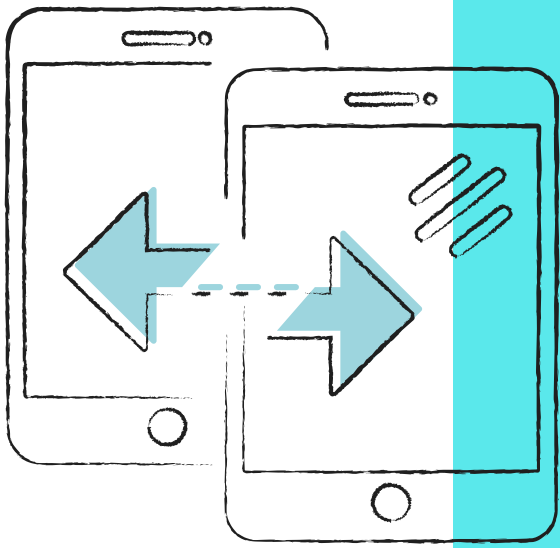
- 1. *New to assessment?*** Begin by familiarising yourself with the different tests and resources that are available. Pearson Clinical's [Q-global](#) platform offers a good selection but it's important to note that not all subtests can be used in all situations.

For example, if you are administering the [WISC V](#) to a child at home, you can't use the Block Design subtest to assess visual spatial reasoning abilities. You can still investigate the same area of cognition by thinking laterally. There is usually an alternative subtest within the battery which probes the same area such as, in the case of the WISC V, the Visual Puzzles subtest which also evaluates visual spatial reasoning and can be administered at home.

The [Specific Telepractice Considerations by Subtest](#) document gives a detailed breakdown of these considerations.



2. Choose your assessment carefully. Consider the different options available to your client – is the correct equipment available, can the child work independently and are they confident working online? Also consider the environment: will your client be in school or at home?



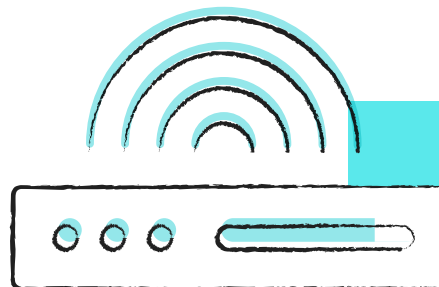
3. Consider both scoring and administration platforms. Using both a digital scoring platform and a remote administration platform, will help to speed you up, giving your client a smoother experience and providing you as a clinician with the flexibility to reorganise.

I highly recommend using Pearson Clinical's Q-interactive platform alongside Q-global because the two work seamlessly together. Using Q-interactive to administer also means that you get instant scoring so you can build your formulation as you work with the client. The flexibility of the digital system means that you can add in or remove subtests to explore other areas that emerge through the course of the assessment.

4. Be prepared. Let families or settings know what equipment they will need to have ready by providing them with a pre-assessment checklist, then arrange a call to run through this. This will ensure the remote assessment itself runs smoothly and no booklet envelopes are opened before the session starts.



5. Ensure only you and your client is online. Ask parents/carers and teachers to ensure no other internet users are online in their house, and do the same for your own. Make a back-up network available for yourself – for example, through a 4G mobile hotspot – and encourage parents, carers and teachers to do likewise.



- 6. Choose your assessment carefully.** Close all non-essential internet tabs, turn off any alerts and alarms, ensure that you are well-lit and that the background behind you is plain and professional. Light rings are a good investment to support you in your presentation!
- 7. Stay secure.** If using accompanying booklets, make sure the assessment envelope with your client isn't difficult to open. Write 'Do not open until instructed' and find a reliable courier service, or use 'tracked delivery'. It is worth paying for guaranteed delivery, as you want the envelope to arrive ideally on the day of the assessment – or as close to this as possible.

- 8. Hold their attention – by boosting rapport.** In advance of every assessment, it is crucial to build in a caveat with the child's teacher or parent/carer, to plan for what to do if the child does not seem to be coping well. Red flags to keep an eye on include the child looking away from the camera often, struggling to follow instructions, showing extreme shyness or asking 'how much longer does this last'.

As in face-to-face interactions, building a strong rapport with a child will help you keep them engaged.



- 9. Take breaks.** Don't forget to take a break but be cautious with how breaks are used. Avoid giving off-screen breaks as it can be hard to re-engage children afterwards. If the child is clearly not able to keep going, stop and work out an alternative means of gathering any outstanding information.



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10. Finish on a high note. Before you say goodbye, give purely positive feedback to their teacher or parent/carer while the child is sitting there listening. They should always end assessments feeling proud of what they have achieved.



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Dr Batul Daulby is an independent Educational Psychologist (EP) and Founder and Principal EP of [CF Psychology](https://www.cfpsychology.co.uk). In 2020, she was highly commended by the British Psychological Society for her contribution to the quality of UK-based psychology practice.

For further information, visit: www.cfpsychology.co.uk

'Top Tips for Educational Psychologists' has been created by Dr Batul Daulby for Pearson Clinical, 2021.

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