

WISC IV WORKSHOP

School psychologists from every school board in Nova Scotia recently attended a one day workshop on the WISC IV organized by the APNS school psychology committee in conjunction with The Psychological Corporation. They were joined by psychologists from other work settings who specialize in working with children.

Jacinthe Bourassa, Clinical Measurement Consultant, with The Psychological Corporation (TPC) gave a comprehensive overview of the fourth edition of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children. With this edition TPC aimed to update and strengthen theoretical foundations, enhance clinical utility, improve psychometric properties, increase and enhance user-friendliness and maintain continuity and familiarity. With regard to theoretical foundations, in line with the current status of intelligence theory, the test no longer relies on the VIQ and the PIQ to characterize a child's overall cognitive abilities but rather Factor Index scores are used to emphasize the multiple factors in cognitive abilities. Enhanced measures of fluid reasoning have also been added. Clinical utility has been addressed through increasing the number of special group validity studies and updating the statistical link to other cognitive measures and measures of achievement. Psychometric properties have been improved by updating of norms, improving evidence of reliability and validity, extending floors and ceilings and re-examining item bias. Increasing user friendliness has resulted in decreased testing time, simpler administration and scoring procedures, improved stimulus materials and reorganization of manual and record form. Ms. Bourassa took questions throughout the presentation, sharing her extensive knowledge of this instrument with the workshop participants.

The workshop, held in the Fairbanks Centre at the entrance to Shubie Park in Dartmouth, also provided participants with the opportunity to consult with their colleagues on various issues. Some took advantage of the proximity to the park to exercise after their lunch while others preferred to remain indoors and enjoy the view. The general consensus of opinion was that the workshop had been a good opportunity to learn about a new instrument and meet up with colleagues from all over the province.