

NDAU Task Information

Verbal Working Memory

What is verbal working memory?

Verbal working memory refers to the capacity to store and manipulate verbal information for brief periods of time.

Why is verbal working memory important?

Working memory provides a mental workspace that is important to many activities in day-to-day life. Working memory is not strongly influenced by the child's prior experiences (e.g. pre-school education) and is an indicator of a child's learning potential.

How does the NDAU measure verbal working memory?

We measure visuo-spatial working memory using the Backwards Digit Recall task from the Automated Working Memory Assessment (AWMA).

In the Backwards Digit Recall task, the child hears a sequence of digits and attempts to recall each sequence in backwards order. The numbers are read aloud to the child. For example, if the child heard the number sequence '3, 9, 2' a correct backwards answer would be '2, 9, 3'. The length of this number sequence will increase throughout the task, increasing the demand on verbal working memory.

