

19th Global Congress on

PEDIATRICIANS AND CHILD PSYCHIATRY

July 12-13, 2017 Chicago, USA

Is my baby ok? The expected milestone achievement (EMA) inventory**Dickinson A R and Zheng S L E**

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We report on the creation of a new baby-infant assessment tool for use by parents and pediatric health practitioners caring for young children from 0-3 years of age. The expected milestone achievement (EMA) inventory results from a 5-year research program which has followed more than 400 infant/parent cohorts who were enrolled in, and attended, continuous weekly/monthly developmental training programs. Consistent with, yet more item-detailed than the format of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ, 1999/2009), and easier to use than the Bayley-III (2006) assessment tool, the EMA developmental inventory was designed to reveal a set of 870 unique yet readily observable key developmental milestone attainments of young children for each and every month from 0-24 months, and thereafter each 2-3 months, to 36 months of age. No repeated items occur across the 29 individual age-normed inventory sets. Norm table results (N=6642) and analyses were conducted across three countries and eight major metropolitan cities (Chinese norm sampling a key component following the previously reported differential findings of Dickinson & Zheng, 2012). Normed results may be used to suggest 'cut-off' points based upon -1SD & -2SD values below the norm for each age, as indicating either a putative reduced or delayed/underdeveloped behavioral status, respectively. We present both the tool itself (item creation and format), information regarding its administration (parent self-administered or professional practitioner led), scoring and evaluation systems, and share brief notes with regards the debriefing/use of the EMA assessment results for subsequent client consultancy or counseling prognoses.

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