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**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT LAUNCHES FOURTH EDITION OF ITS
FLAGSHIP SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PRODUCT**

**New Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF[®] – 4)
Introduces Four-Level Assessment Process That
Evaluates All Four Aspects of Language**

SAN ANTONIO – Harcourt Assessment, Inc., has launched the latest edition of its flagship speech and language product, the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Fourth Edition (CELF[®] – 4). The new test will be available for purchase during the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) annual conference in Chicago Nov. 13 – 15.

CELF – 4, which is marketed under Harcourt's PsychCorp brand, is a fast and flexible assessment for students ages five to 21 that uses a four-level process to evaluate all four aspects of language – structure, content, use and sound awareness.

The test can be administered by speech-language pathologists, school psychologists, special educators and qualified diagnosticians.

“With its innovative four-level assessment process, CELF – 4 provides clinicians with much needed flexibility to make fast and accurate diagnoses,” said Aurelio Prifitera, publisher of Harcourt Assessment, Inc. “And with seven new subtests, CELF – 4 is now more comprehensive than ever.”

By following the test's four-level assessment process, clinicians can obtain up to seven different index scores that provide insight into a student's language ability. These index scores are Core Language, Receptive Language (comprehension), Expressive Language, Language Content, Language Structure, Language Memory and Working Memory.

The last index is unique to CELF – 4, which is the first language test to incorporate a working memory component.

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“CELF – 4 provides clinicians a flexible, multi-perspective assessment process that closely matches the clinical decision-making process,” said Elisabeth H. Wiig, Ph.D., professor emerita at Boston University and a CELF – 4 author. “Clinicians can use CELF – 4 with confidence that it is a reliable assessment of a student’s language ability and a valuable tool for evaluating the nature of a student’s language disorder.”

In the first level of the assessment process, clinicians can determine if a student has a language disorder by administering just four subtests (down from six in CELF – 3), which vary based on the student’s age. For example, for students five to eight, these subtests are Concepts and Following Directions, Word Structure, Recalling Sentences, and Formulated Sentences. The company’s research determined that these subtests are the most accurate for identifying a language disorder.

In the second level, clinicians can administer additional subtests to determine a student’s strengths and weaknesses, and diagnose the nature of the disorder.

Using another group of subtests for level three, clinicians can determine what skill deficits underlie the student’s disorder.

Level four comprises the Observational Rating Scale and the Pragmatics Profile, which clinicians can use to evaluate the student’s use of language at school and at home. Level four includes observational evaluations by teachers and parents and, in some cases, by the student.

Once it has been determined that there is a language disorder, the clinician can follow the remaining three levels of the assessment process in any sequence. For example, because CELF – 4 is flexible and modular, the clinician might choose to administer the Observational Rating Scale and the Pragmatics Profile. Or, the clinician might choose to administer the level three subtests to determine what skill deficits underlie the student’s disorder.

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To help the clinician manage the assessment process, CELF – 4 comes with an optional Scoring Assistant® on floppy or compact disk. The Scoring Assistant scores and interprets all subtests rapidly and provides six different reports.

The CELF – 4 Report Assistant, which produces an editable narrative report of student performance, will be published in December.

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment, Inc., is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs. Under the PsychCorp brand, it publishes a wide variety of clinical products, such as the Wechsler® family of tests, including the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children® (WISC-IV®) and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence™, both of which are industry leaders. Its educational products include the Stanford Achievement Test series and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test®.

The company is affiliated with the Harcourt book publishing companies, and together they form the global education brand of Reed Elsevier Group plc (NYSE: RUK and ENL) -- a world-leading publisher and information provider operating in the science and medical, legal, education and business-to-business industry sectors.

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