

# Testing Made Simple

## . . .or at Least Easier!



Explaining technical test data to teachers and parents can be a challenge, so we put together this glossary of terms to assist your efforts. You'll also find an illustrated normal curve (sometimes called a bell-shaped curve) with standard deviations, percentages, percentile equivalents, and standard scores plotted along the curve. This should help you demonstrate how one student compares to another.

age equivalent score: the age corresponding to the average raw score obtained by a person of a particular age on a test

mean: the average score of a distribution of scores on a task computed by dividing the sum of scores by the number of scores; the statistical average

median: the score that represents the midpoint of the range of scores

percentile rank: the ranking that indicates the percentage of raw scores within a particular age group that were lower than the raw score in question (i.e., a percentile rank of 65 means that 65% of the standardization sample scored below this score)

reliability: the consistency with which a test measures a given attribute or behavior; the stability, precision, and accuracy of scores

standard deviation: the statistical measure that tells you how tightly the scores are grouped around the mean. For example, when scores are tightly grouped together and the bell-shaped curve is steep, the standard deviation is small.

standard score: the translation of a raw score into a statistical score that describes the raw score's distance from the mean

validity: the extent to which a test actually assesses the skills it was designed to assess

## The Normal Curve

