ABLLS-R Kit

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BOTTOM LINE

If you find yourself with lots of free time and you enjoy shopping for excellent deals, this kit may not be for you. Alternatively, if you have a waiting list and find yourself booked from dawn to dusk seeing clients and doing assessments, the time this kit saves may be worth the cash. If you are a behavior analyst (or even if not) who routinely delivers ABLLS-R assessments as a product, this kit will probably pay for itself in short order. It would be ideal for the behavior analysts who consult with teams by conducting assessments and drafting a report to give teams who then develop IEPs and home programs. Additionally, a large agency or school could benefit from a community kit that could be used specifically for assessments throughout the year by many different classrooms and professionals. If, on the other hand, you are a BCBA providing consultation to home services and will work with a child for many hours in their home, it may be just as helpful to utilize stimuli and objects found in their home and community environment. The rating is only a 3.5 because this product is literally a box of toys and assessment stimuli that are available for sale individually all over the Internet. However, the inclusion of the guide to integrate these items into a behavioral assessment and the convenience it offers a bustling behavior analyst may make this a tool you should check out.

The Different Roads to Learning kit included the ABLLS-R protocol and guide plus the entirety of materials needed to conduct each task of the protocol. The following components comprise this kit:

100+ Common Objects, the Language Builder, Reinforcer Kit, 8 Sets of Basic Flashcards, 11 Sets of Cognitive Flashcards, Counting Bears, Wooden Beads, Peg Board Set, Shape & Form Box, Color Cubes, Block Design Cards, 9-inch Ball, 19 Puzzles, Writing & Art Kit, Activity Workbook Kit, Magnetic Alphabet Board, Clock, Size Sort, Dressing Doll, Sound Tracks, 3 Large Laminated Pictures, and 4 Children's Books.

The kit comes with two rolling crates (the demo kit included orange ones) and a large clear plastic container for the Common Object Kit. I must admit, unpacking the four boxes and looking at all of the various toys, games, and objects was reminiscent of Christmas. The staff at the facility that were testing it with me were also eager to dig in. The fact that the dressing doll is the "Dress me Josh learn-to-dress doll" was a happy coincidence. Or was it? The boxes contain a sheet of stickers that has which items go with which ABLLS-R task. After affixing those to the correct objects and kits, I packed away the whole thing into the rolling crates. If I were having to transport this by foot across long distances, I might wish that it was just one big duffle bag or suitcase (having two milk crates plus carrying a plastic container might be difficult). However, this was going to be used in a center, so we had no difficulty getting them to and from all the classrooms.

In addition to my examination of the kit, I handed it to two behavior techs who had never conducted an ABLLS-R™ and may not have even opened the guide/protocol book prior to receiving the kit. They began conducting the assessment and the chief complaint was difficulty determining which kit items were necessary

for which tasks in the protocol. Once directed to the ABLLS-R Kit suggestions for Use developed by Stacey Asay for Different Roads to Learning (and included), they found the organization was suddenly very handy! Overall novice behavior techs were able to complete four early learner ABLLS-R assessments spending between 4–8 hours on each.

Appetitive: Since the original ABLLS was created in the late '70s, it included some tasks that needed stimuli, which are now difficult to find. More specifically, some of the puzzles required a certain number of pieces and a shaped outline. This kit includes those! It is unclear how important those specific puzzles are to understanding the ability of a child to learn and use language, but as far as comprehensiveness, it fits the bill. Additionally, the kit includes a Suggestions for Use booklet that guides a new user of the kit in how the specific items in the kit can/should be used for specific tasks in the assessment. A final, and perhaps most important benefit of using a single kit is standardization of your assessments. This can become especially important as you do follow-up checks because it will help ensure that any changes detected are more likely due to teaching variables rather than an artifact of different stimuli for trials in the assessment. For those practitioners who may be interested in conducting research, it is also a handy method to control for any differences across people whom you may be assessing. The Suggestions for Use is useful, especially for someone using the kit the first few times.

Aversive: The price can cause sticker shock. However, it is about 66% of the price of similar products, so even though it is not cheap, it is a good value relative to others. Some people have complained in online forums about the fact that they have to put the stickers on the objects, so I'll include that as a potential problem, although in reality it is probably good to help familiarize yourself with the items in the kit.

Price: \$1,095.95 Comes in four boxes. A cursory search for similar products yielded two other comparable kits each for sale just under \$1,500.