

# BrainyAct™

## Natural Abilities Assessment

By Kathy Kolbe

### Instructions for Session

#### Set-Up BrainyAct™ Assessment

Choose a location that is free from distractions – i.e. television, radio, family members, pets, toys, etc. It can be at a table with a seat or on the floor, wherever the child is comfortable. It's best to find a place the child is used to playing, not where they would do school work, for example.

Have all the items ready to go in the bag. If you are concerned that the child will be unable to remove the items from the bag on his/her own, start with the items out of the bag.

**Note:** BrainyAct materials are for children 3 and older, used under adult supervision. However, you can remove any item you are concerned is not age appropriate for the child. Let Dynamynd, Inc. know it was removed so it can be taken into account during scoring.

#### Record the Session

It's best to film using a portable device, like a phone, since children may move around during the session. Only the child's hands and materials are crucial to the recording. It is not necessary to show the child's face in the footage; however, it's not an issue if you happen to record the face or body (parent should sign a video/photo release if face is shown).

Recording over the child's shoulder from behind works well because the administrator is out of view of the child. If this is not an option, use a computer/phone/camera that is setup in front of the child, but not being actively manipulated by the administrator. Some kids are camera shy and have a hard time getting into action when being "watched."

Start the recording before you begin giving instructions. Make sure to keep it recording through the entire activity (even if you end up having to interject for reasons listed below).

The standard time for a BrainyAct session is **8-12 minutes**. If it goes a little longer or shorter, that's ok (it's not better or worse). Please do not make the child aware of a "deadline." However, the child needs to do the activity for **at least 4 minutes** for Dynamynd to determine a result.

**Note:** Make sure the camera follows the materials/hands at all times. If the child moves to the floor or under the table, follow the child.

**Note:** It usually works better if the parent is not in the room for the session. If that's not an option because the parent is filming, the parent should be out of view of the child as much as possible (recording behind them, for example). Some kids will constantly look

to their parent for approval or what they “should” do. The less interaction the better for the child to do things in his/her own way.

**Note:** It’s best if only the person administering the assessment is in the room. Administrators should be out of the line of sight of the individual while the assessment is completed if at all possible.

### **Script**

- **Initial instructions:** “Create your own personal work of art or toy. You’ll have about 12 minutes.”
- Alternative instructions for young kids who may not understand the Initial Instructions: “Build something interesting – do whatever you want.” You are looking to provide an idea starter for the child to get conative.
- **2-minute warning** (if child takes full time): “We’ll finish up in 2 minutes.”
- If child doesn’t make it to 4 minutes or seems unengaged, wait a little while in silence to see if the child reengages. If that doesn’t work, try some words of encouragement.

Options:

- “What you’ve done is fun, try doing something more with…” (pointing to an item)
- “Are there some more ways you could use this to make a toy/work of art?”
- “Show me what else you’d like to do.”
- “Give me another idea for how to use these.” (pointing to items)
- “Show me what’s in your mind.”
- “What would you like to do with these?” (pointing to items)

**Note:** Administrator should not physically touch any materials. Point if necessary.

**Note:** Administrator should not give advice, only words of encouragement, when necessary. It is not recommended to encourage more than once or twice at the most. Please continue to record if you do this, so Dynamynd knows it happened. If the child does not engage, wait a couple weeks and try again in a different physical place. It’s not recommended to “force” the child with punishment, bribery or excess encouragement.

**Note:** Only end the recording as soon as you are positive that the child is finished. Sometimes it may be necessary to “zoom out” if it’s a very tall work of art. Adjust the view of your camera accordingly. We must be able to see their full creation for an accurate result.

### **Submit the Video Recording**

Submit child’s demographic information AND upload video(s) to Dynamynd by going to <https://dynamynd.com/upload/>. If you have more than one video, please include “1of3, 2of3, etc.” in the file names, if possible.

Email [info@dynamynd.com](mailto:info@dynamynd.com) if experiencing any issues in uploading the video(s).