

How to request authorization for the development of adaptations (Updated 2/15/2020)

Adaptations of the CDI are most useful when they adhere to shared standards and procedures that make them genuinely comparable to the original and thus insure some degree of coherence and consistency across versions. Furthermore, given the extensive work required to develop an adequate adaptation, it is important that appropriate academic and other resources be available for the project, and that duplication be avoided. For these reasons, the CDI Board authorizes specific adaptations of the CDI, using the following guidelines:

A. The research team should have **appropriate competence and resources** for generating a successful adaptation, including norming and validation. We encourage collaboration among researchers in these projects. When the resources and plans are appropriate, a full, exclusive authorization (Level I) will be granted. In other cases, an individual researcher or group of researchers may wish to develop an adaptation for a specific research project, such as a dissertation, without plans for full norming and validation. In these cases, a limited, nonexclusive authorization (Level II) will be granted, which does not include the right to use the term “MacArthur” or “CDI” in the title, or to distribute the form to others. This does not preclude a later individual or research group from proposing a full adaptation. (See item 4 at the end of this document.)

B. The proposed adaptation should contain **the major communicative structure categories** that are in the original. Specifically, adaptations of the CDI:Words & Gestures should assess receptive and expressive vocabulary, and gestures. Adaptations of the CDI:Words & Sentences should assess expressive vocabulary and grammar, the latter in a format appropriate to the structure of the language. Adaptation of other components of the original CDIs is optional. Researchers are also welcome to add new components not in the English CDIs. New components should be consistent with the general CDI approach, which is parent-report, primarily in a recognition format.

Adaptations of the shortform CDI:Words & Gestures should include a vocabulary checklist of approximately 100 words to assess receptive and expressive vocabulary. A section of gesture items may be added if desired. Adaptations of the shortform CDI:Words & Sentences should include a vocabulary checklist of approximately 100 words to assess expressive vocabulary, and a question about combining words. A short section of other items assessing grammar may be added if desired. For each of these, if there are additional items, the total length should not exceed two pages.

C. Adaptations should provide **unique content above and beyond previously authorized CDIs**. Note that CDI versions covering a closely related language or an additional dialect can sometimes meet this criterion. For example, we have authorized adaptations for Mandarin and Cantonese versions of Chinese; for German and Austrian German; and for several of the related Romance languages of Spain , i.e., European Spanish, Galician and Catalan, as well as Basque. Authors submitting requests for authorization to develop instruments for a language or dialect close to an existing, previously authorized one should information about the differences that they believe justify the proposed new versions. Minor differences in pronunciation or vocabulary items, even if numerous, can generally be handled by writing in the variations on existing forms, and acknowledging those changes in publications and presentations. Evidence for a new form would be provided by differences in grammar, or a need to change more than 2-3% of the vocabulary items to conceptually different, more culturally appropriate items, We do recognize that there are political and social contexts in which more minor changes may merit a new form and title, and will consider those arguments. Both parent report and vocabulary checklists have long histories antedating the development of the CDI, and nothing here precludes the development of qualitatively different instruments along other lines. Those instruments, however, should not be characterized as MacArthur or MacArthur-Bates CDIs. Investigators unsure whether their work might infringe on the copyright of the CDIs should address their questions to the CDI Board.

D. Investigators interested in developing an authorized adaptation of the CDI should follow these steps:

1. Describe the proposed project, addressing the guidelines listed above, and submit this proposal to the MacArthur-Bates CDI Board. Philip Dale (dalep@unm.edu) is the contact person for these requests. The request should include:

(a) a statement of the nature of the proposed adaptation, including which forms (CDI: Words & Gestures, CDI: Words & Sentences, shortforms of those two, the CDI-III) will be adapted and the plan for developing the adaptation, plans for norming and validation (if any), and in the case of languages closely related to those with existing authorization, an explanation of the need for a new adaptation;

(b) names and vitas for the principal authors of the adaptation; and

(c) an approximate timetable

The CDI Board will provide written authorization of approved projects, and would be happy to maintain contact during the development period, if the research team finds consultation useful.

2. When the adaptation is complete (that is, the form, not necessarily standardization), a copy and an English translation should be sent to the MacArthur-Bates CDI Board (again via Philip Dale) for final approval. **Only with this final approval, provided in writing, is use of the term “MacArthur-Bates CDI” or equivalent permitted.** Note that there is no requirement that the term “MacArthur-Bates CDI” be used in the title of adaptations, although developers are welcome to do so. Approved adaptations will be listed on the CDI website (<http://www.mb-cdi.stanford.edu>) with links to the instrument and to the adaptation team. When it is not used in the title, as is the case for preliminary version, a footnote or other prominent note should be included on the form acknowledging that this is an authorized adaptation of the MacArthur-Bates CDI.

3. We strongly encourage developers to make their instruments available to others once it is complete and approved as described above.

4. Authors of approved versions (see preceding paragraph 2) are free to establish either noncommercial or commercial publication of the forms and Users' manuals. Because CDI adaptations are not translations, it is not necessary to communicate with Brookes Publishing about this. We do request that a copy of each form and of the Users' Manual (if developed) be sent to Philip Dale for the Board. All authorizations for publication by the CDI Board are for specific adaptations whose development have been previously authorized, and have no implications for other adaptations.

5. We realize that there will be cases where events in the authorized developer's professional life, or the institutional context, may preclude progress on a project. We consider adequate progress for Level I authorizations to include the availability of a form for sharing with the research and clinical community. The CDI Advisory Board does therefore retain the option in these cases, after consulting with the original investigators, of granting new authorization.