

How to request authorization for the development of adaptations (Updated 1/24)

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 ensure 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 Level I adaptation process. (See also item 7 below.)

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. 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 list of vocabulary items has been shown to be a good predictor of the more complete lists of the CDI:WG and CDI:WS, but this has not yet been shown to be true for gestures or grammatical. Although a selection of gesture or grammatical items may be added if desired (the resulting total short form should not exceed two pages), we encourage developers to consider an adaptation of the relevant full CDI if those domains are of primary interest.

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 provide information about the differences that they believe justify the proposed new versions. Minor differences in pronunciation of 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. A rationale for a new longform CDI instrument would be provided by substantial differences in grammar, or a need to change more than a substantial number, e.g., 30-40, of the vocabulary items to conceptually different, more culturally appropriate items. (For shortforms, 10 new items constitute a comparable criterion.) We do recognize that there are political and social contexts in which more minor changes may also merit a new form and title, and we will take that into consideration. 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 (mbcdiadaptations@gmail.com) is the primary contact person for these requests, but the request should also be copied to Larry Fenson (lfenson@gmail.com). 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 either or both 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, including information for a faculty supervisor in the case of student projects; 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. Please see Special Note below if the new instrument is to be developed on the basis of data in Wordbank.

3. When the adaptation is complete (that is, the form, not necessarily standardization/norming), 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 equivalents 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 a 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.

4. We strongly encourage developers to make their instruments available to others once they are complete and approved as described above. This may include posting on your website and/or ours, responding to requests, or including the full instrument in a publication.

5. Authors of approved versions (see preceding paragraphs 3 and 4) 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 the Users' Manual (if developed) be sent to Philip Dale (contact at mbcdiadaptations@gmail.com for mailing address) for the Board.

6. Authorized developers may wish to progress to developing adaptations of other CDI instruments for that language. In that case, we ask only that they inform us for our records, including updating their listing on the CDI website.

7. 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 the final 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 authorization to a new research team.

Special Note concerning use of Wordbank data to construct new CDI instruments

Thanks to the generosity of child language researchers and their willingness to contribute their data, the WordBank lexical database (wordbank.stanford.edu), developed by Mike Frank and colleagues, now (1/1/2024) contains data from 84,139 children and 95,745 CDI administrations, across 38 languages and 78 instruments. These data were contributed to enable an improved foundation for research on empirical questions and hypotheses concerning early language development. The size of the samples for many of the languages now enable a quite different use of these data, specifically the development of new measures, such as short forms and adaptive (CAT) versions. We expect that in most cases the original CDI adaptation developers will take on these projects, and we ask that in those cases they simply notify us of their project (dalep@unm.edu). In other cases, new investigators may wish to undertake this work, using the data in WordBank. In these cases, we would expect them to submit a formal request for authorization to the CDI Advisory Board, as would be the case for any new instrument. In preparing that request, we ask that the applicants contact the original developers to ask if they wish to be involved or if they are already working on such a project, and report the outcome of their request. This is a matter of scholarly respect for previous contributions. We have been informally following this process when new investigators have wanted to develop a shortform. If

the applicants have not been successful in contacting the original developers, that should be documented.

Please feel free to contact Philip Dale (mbcdiadaptations@gmail.com) for any questions you might have.