THE LINK BETWEEN LEARNING DISABILITIES AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: 
Interview Guide

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the official position or policies of the U. S. Department of Justice, 
Creighton University, or the Educational Testing Service.
The interview guide that follows was administered to approximately 2,000 consenting 12-to-16-year old boys and girls as part of the diagnostic assessment procedures of the learning disabilities-juvenile delinquency research and demonstration program. The sample included both youths who had been adjudicated delinquent, and youths who had no official records of delinquency. The assessments were conducted from April through September, 1977, at various locations in Arizona, Indiana, and Maryland. Portions of the interview will be re-administered as part of the posttest that will be given to participants in the remediation-program portion of the study.

The interviews were administered individually by members of the assessment team supervised by Educational Testing Service (ETS). Each question and response alternative was read aloud to the respondents, whose answers were recorded on the guide. The average interview took approximately 25 minutes to complete. In order to protect the anonymity of their answers, respondents' names were not recorded on the interview guides.

Many of the items in the interview guide were adapted from previous research. Item 4 was adapted from a report of the Research Triangle Institute (Correlates of Socio-Educational Status: CAPE Pilot Study, Report No. SU-450, July, 1969). These simple household articles, particularly in conjunction with parent's educational and occupational status, have been shown to be predictive of socio-economic status. The school attitude scale (Item 9) was adapted from a scale prepared by Jules Goodison and Jerome Weisbrodt for research conducted by ETS among seventh grade boys and girls in an industrialized midwestern state.
The scale, which was shown to be reliable, is a blend of items directed towards school in general, as well as towards specific aspects of school. Items 11 through 17 were adapted by Educational Testing Service from the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale (1960, Revised), which was used in another study that was conducted by ETS. These items are intended to gauge the veracity of the youths' answers to the interview questions. Items 18a and 18b were added as a measure of respondents' self-reported police contacts.

At the heart of the interview guide are the questions concerning self-reported delinquent activity (Item 10). The self-report measures were adapted from research of the Institute for Juvenile Research (J.W.C. Johnstone, The Family and Delinquency: A Reappraisal, 1976, unpublished draft, cited with permission of the author). The 28 items of the self-report scale may be viewed as seven groups of four items each, each group representing a category of offenses. The groups were formed by judgmentally combining the results of the cluster analyses of the IJR study with categories suggested by the results of a survey of juvenile court personnel (L.E. Cohen, Pre-adjudicatory Detention in Three Juvenile Courts: An Empirical Analysis of the Factors Related to Detention Decision Outcome, Analytic Report SD-AR-8, U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, National Criminal Justice Information Statistics Service, 1975). The results of the two studies were fairly consistent; however, when conflicts existed, the results of the IJR analyses were given preference. The items were not selected to include all behavior that would be judged delinquent, but rather to include a wide range of delinquent behavior.
For each of the 28 items, respondents were asked how many times they had ever engaged in the behavior, and how many times they had engaged in the behavior within the past year. Reported frequencies were recorded exactly as given, up to a maximum frequency of 99. The items, grouped by category, are shown on the following page.
SELF-REPORTED DELINQUENCY SCALE

Status Acts
1. (How many times have you ever) cheated on an exam in school or turned in work that was not your own?
2. Stayed away from school for at least part of the day because you wanted to?
3. Been suspended from school?
4. Been thrown out of class by a teacher?

Miscellaneous Acts
5. Taken things that don't cost too much from home or school without permission?
6. Taken something small from a store?
7. Kept or used something that you knew had been stolen?
8. Deliberately damaged private or public property?

Alcohol-related Acts
9. Drank beer, wine, or liquor with parent's permission?
10. Drank beer, wine, or liquor without parent's permission?
11. Been drunk?
12. Bought beer, wine, or liquor?

Drug-related Acts
13. Used marijuana or hashish (grass, pot, hash)?
14. Used LSD, mescaline, or other psychedelics?
15. Used downers or barbiturates (without a prescription)?
16. Used methedrine (speed) or other uppers or amphetamines (without a prescription)?

Automobile Acts
17. Driven a car on the streets by yourself?
18. Driven a car too fast or recklessly?
19. Ridden around in a car that was stolen for the ride?
20. Stripped someone else's car of parts to use or sell?

Criminal Delinquency
21. Taken at least $20 or something worth $20 that did not belong to you?
22. Broken into someone's home, or a store, or some other place in order to steal something?
23. Used force or threatened to use force to get money from another person?
24. Stolen a car?
Violent Delinquency

25. Had a fist fight in which someone got hurt badly enough to go to a doctor or hospital?
26. Carried a weapon like a gun, knife, or razor in case you had to use it against another person?
27. Taken part in a gang fight?
28. Used a weapon like a brick, knife, or razor in a fight?
INTERVIEW GUIDE

I am trying to understand better how kids your age think and act. I'd like to ask you a few questions about yourself, school, and other things that kids do. I hope that you'll be straight with me, and I promise to keep what you tell me between the two of us and others like myself involved in the study. I'm going to write down what you tell me. Then after I've read all your answers, I'll fix the papers so that no one knows whose answers they are. You don't have to answer the questions, but if you will, it will really help me find out about the different things that can get kids into trouble. Okay?

One of the things I am doing is trying to find out about families in Phoenix, Arizona; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Baltimore, Maryland. So let's start by talking a little about your family.

1. Do you have any older brothers or sisters? _____ How many? _____

How about younger brothers or sisters? _____ How many? _____


Is there more than one adult living with you? Yes _____ No _____

3. How far in school did the head of your house go?

1. None, or some grade school.
2. Graduated from grade school.
3. Some high school.
4. Graduated from high school.
5. Some college.
6. Graduated from college (a four year college).
7. Attended graduate or professional school (such as law school or medical school).
8. I don't know.

4. Does your family have a telephone in your home? _____

How about a dictionary? _____

Do you have an encyclopedia at home? _____

Does someone who lives with you own a car? _____

Do you get a newspaper nearly every day? _____

Do you get magazines at least once a month? _____

Do you have many books at home; say thirty or forty or more? _____

5. Which would you say you are?

1. Native American (such as Navajo, Seminole, Sioux)
2. Latin American (Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican)
3. Black American  
4. Oriental American  
5. White American  
6. Other ____________________

6. When was the last time your eyesight was checked?  
   1. Less than three months ago  
   2. Three to twelve months ago  
   3. One to two years ago  
   4. Over two years/can't recall/never

7. Are you supposed to wear eye glasses?  
   Yes  
   No

   Do you wear them as you are supposed to?  
   Yes  
   No

8. When was the last time your hearing was checked?  
   1. Less than three months ago  
   2. Three to twelve months ago  
   3. One to two years ago  
   4. Over two years ago/can't recall/never

9. Now I'll say some things and I want you to say "yes" if you agree, "no" if you don't agree, or "don't know" if you're not sure.

   I like school.  
   School is usually a nice place to be.  
   Most school work is boring.  
   It's fun to go to school.  
   I do not like much of my school work.  
   I like to be absent from school when I can.  
   School is really worthwhile.  
   There are too many rules in school.

   Now we come to some serious questions about things that people sometimes do. Some people have gotten caught and other haven't. You don't have to answer the questions if you don't want to, but I need your help to understand how kids feel about these things. Remember, I will not let anyone except others like myself in this study, know your answers. Do you have any questions?
10. All right, tell me how often you have done any of the following things. Tell me if you've never done them, or if you have, how many times.

(Noe for diagnostic assessor: also ask for each question, "How many times in the past year have you done this?" Record in the second column)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Frequency In Past Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Cheated on an exam in school or turned in work that was not your own?</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Drank beer, wine, or liquor with parent's permission?</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Drank beer, wine, or liquor without parent's permission?</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Taken things that don't cost much from home or school without permission?</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Taken something small from a store?</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Had a fist fight in which someone got hurt badly enough to go to a doctor or a hospital?</td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>Stayed away from school for at least part of the day just because you wanted to?</td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>Been suspended from school?</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>Been drunk?</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>Driven a car on the street by yourself?</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td>Kept or used something that you knew had been stolen?</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>Driven a car too fast or recklessly?</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>Deliberately damaged private or public property?</td>
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<td>N</td>
<td>Been thrown out of class by a teacher?</td>
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<td>O</td>
<td>Carried a weapon like a gun, knife, or razor in case you had to use it against another person?</td>
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<td>P. Bought beer, wine, or liquor?</td>
<td>Q. Used marijuana or hashish (grass, pot, hash)?</td>
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*14. I have never hurt someone's feelings on purpose. Is that true of you or not?

*15. I never mind being asked to return a favor. Is that true of you or not?

*16. I sometimes try to get even rather than forgive and forget. Is that true of you or not?

*17. Have you ever been found guilty in a juvenile court?

18a. Have you ever been picked up by the police?

18b. If yes, for what? ________________________________

*Adapted from the 1960 Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale - Revised.
END