

## PICCOLO™ Scoring: Are We Reliable?

The PICCOLO™ authors state that reliability between home visitors should be approximately 80%. This means that within any single domain (affection, responsiveness, encouragement or teaching):

1. when the scores are added up for that domain, there should be no more than 3 points difference between the total score of one home visitor and the total score of another;  
and
2. the sum of the differences between the item scores of one home visitor and the item scores of another home visitor should be no more than 3 points off.

EXAMPLE 1: Affection Domain

Item #	Home Visitor A's Score	Home Visitor B's Score	Difference btw HV A's & HVB's Score for Each Item
1	2	1	1
2	2	2	0
3	0	1	1
4	1	2	1
5	0	1	1
6	2	2	0
7	2	2	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>

In this example, there is only a 2 point difference between the total scores of the home visitors. However, there is a 4 point difference between the totals of the item-by-item differences. These two home visitors are not reliable with each other.

EXAMPLE 2: Teaching Domain

Item #	Home Visitor A's Score	Home Visitor B's Score	Difference btw HV A's & HVB's Score for Each Item
1	0	0	0
2	1	2	1
3	2	2	0
4	1	1	0
5	2	1	1
6	1	1	0
7	2	2	0
8	2	2	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>

In this second example, there is no difference between the total scores of the home visitors, and, there is only a 2 point difference between the totals of the item-by-item differences. These two home visitors are reliable with each other.