Frequently Asked Questions
EASI U.S. and International Normative Data Collection (INDC)

What is the EASI?

The Evaluation in Ayres Sensory Integration® is a set of tests which will measure all the core constructs of Ayres Sensory Integration (i.e., sensory perception, ocular, postural, & bilateral integration, praxis, and sensory reactivity.) The tests will be "open access" meaning that appropriately trained professionals (most likely through verified training programs) will be able to obtain the files needed for making the test sheets, test forms, test manual and other necessary materials for administering and scoring the tests. The EASI is designed to assess children ages 3-12 years of age and we hope to collect normative data in close to 100 countries.

Who can be an international normative data collection (INDC) tester?

In most countries, the majority of the INDC testers will be occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech therapists. In some countries, other health-related and educational professionals, such as psychologists, may also assist in the process. While training and education in Ayres Sensory Integration® will likely help INDC testers to learn and practice the tests, there is not a training prerequisite, unless determined necessary by a specific country.

If I am interested in becoming an EASI INDC tester, how would I receive the necessary training for testing children?

Training for the tests will include reading the test manual, reviewing all the test sheets and forms, viewing video demonstrations, and completing online lessons. Completion of a brief, online, free, Human Subjects Research Course course is required. Some countries may also offer in-person training and support, but it is not expected that travel or attendance at onsite training will be required.

How much time will the training take?

The training resources are still in development. We expect that learning and practicing the test administration and scoring will take 25-35 hours.

Does participating in this project as an EASI INDC mean that I will be "certified" in Ayres Sensory Integration?

Efforts to develop and disseminate standards for competency in ASI is currently underway under another aspect of the ASI 2020 Vision (Goal #3), through a non-profit group called the International Council for Education in ASI (ICEASI). While participating as an EASI INDC tester will certainly help professionals to learn to administer and score the EASI, this is only one as aspect of training in ASI. There are many organizations and groups around the world which will be offering training and education in ASI that meet the ICEASI standards and we expect that participation as a INDC tester will meet some, but certainly not all, the requirements of those programs.

What type of children will be tested?

Typically developing children, ages 3-12 years, who are representative of each country's population will be included in the normative data collection. Specific inclusion and exclusion criteria, as well as assistance with recruiting children, will be provided.

How many children will I need to test and how much time will it take?
To increase the consistency in testing, we hope that each INDC will test 10 children. If it is not possible to test 10, 5 will be the minimum. The amount of time needed to test will depend somewhat on the proficiency of the tester and on the abilities of the child being tested. The INDC versions of the tests will be longer than the final versions, so that items can later be selected that are best for children at varying ages. However, we expect that the normative versions of the tests should be able to be completed in two one-hour sessions, plus another half hour for scoring. Estimating 3 hours per child should be realistic.

When will the INDC take place?
Training on the EASI for INDC testers is underway now and we data collection will begin soon. We hope to complete the data collection by December of 2019.

Will there be any costs for me to participate?
Since all the test sheets, etc., will be available on a website, there will be some nominal costs for printing forms (paper and ink). The EASI also includes some objects that can be easily found (e.g. a yoga mat, chopstick, file folders, plastic water bottles, etc.) In addition, plastic objects needed for the tactile tests are printed on 3D printers. The estimated cost for the 3D forms is under $200 USD. Finally, testers will wish to assemble organizational materials (e.g. bins and carriers) to increase efficiency in testing and to allow transport and storage of the tests. These costs will vary depending on the choices made. The test kits assembled will be the property of the individual INDC tester, so hopefully these costs will be an investment in a test kit which will be used in the future once the tests are finalized. For testers who cannot afford test materials, efforts will be made to offer assistance.

Being an INDC tester for the EASI may require up to 50-60 hours of volunteer time-why would I want to donate my time and effort for this project?
Comprehensive assessment is critical for effective and appropriate intervention. We need accessible and feasible tests in sensory integration so that we can understand children fully and plan intervention programs which will help them to participate fully and successfully at school and in life. Offering the EASI as an open source test (i.e. free of charge to appropriately trained professionals) is only be possible because of the generous efforts of many dedicated therapists around the world. This unique global effort will likely be an important milestone in the development of ASI and participating as an INDC testers will be a special opportunity and those who help will be widely acknowledged. Most importantly, however, the EASI INDC testers will be contributing to a large-scale effort to ensure that children and families around the globe receive the services they need.

If I do not think I can be a INDC, is there any other way I can help?
Yes! We will need many volunteers to help with tasks such as organization and communication, data entry and overall team support. Join us in making the world an easier place where children are more fully understood!

To submit your interest in helping with the EASI, please contact the EASI Lead for your country or write to info@asi2020vision.org if you do not know who the lead is for your country.