

# PLS-5 Report Write-Up Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · September 2026 · Reproduces no items, forms, norms, or tables

**The PLS-5** (NCS Pearson, 2011) is a norm-referenced developmental language scale for birth through 7 years 11 months: Auditory Comprehension and Expressive Communication, each a standard score (mean 100, SD 15), combine into Total Language, and play-based elicitation, observation, and caregiver report on the Home Communication Questionnaire can all credit early items. The write-up's hard parts are provenance (label what came from caregiver report), arithmetic (SD rules read off the standard score; percent delay comes only from the state's method), and age (prematurity correction is permitted only through 24 months).

**Identification + rule** edition, both ages, the criterion

**Do:** name the edition given (English, Spanish, Australian and NZ), paper or Q-global materials, chronological and corrected age, and the rule applied.

**Pitfall:** "PLS-5 administered in Spanish" for the separately normed Spanish edition; a corrected age with no arithmetic or authority.

**Evidence sources** reported, observed, or elicited

**Do:** state which credited behaviors came from the caregiver questionnaire, which were observed, and which were elicited in session.

**Pitfall:** "the child demonstrated" when the credit came from the questionnaire; no study equates the two kinds of evidence.

**Validity conditions** bound the interpretation

**Do:** chart engagement, hearing status, home languages and exposure, interpreter or telepractice, and whether the English norms fit.

**Pitfall:** English-edition scores reported as diagnostic for a bilingual child; the norms assume English as the primary language.

**Scale scores + intervals** SS, CI, percentile, descriptor

**Do:** report AC, EC, and Total Language with interval and percentile; descriptors in prose; GSVs recorded; age equivalents only if required.

**Pitfall:** a bare 78 against a 77.5 line, or Total Language as the only number; a low AC or EC alone can qualify a child.

**Converging evidence** sample, parent report, screener, hearing

**Do:** add a language sample, an independent parent-report inventory (CDI), the Articulation Screener result, and hearing status.

**Pitfall:** the PLS-5 standing alone; federal law bars any single procedure as the sole criterion for eligibility.

**Eligibility analysis** the rule's own currency

**Do:** quote the criterion; SD rules read off the standard score; percent-delay rules follow the state's method; the team decides.

**Pitfall:** "1.5 SD equals a 25 percent delay"; standard scores never convert to a percentage, and the state's method governs.

**Family summary + next steps** plain language, then the plan

**Do:** strengths, needs, what the family reported, whether the criterion was met, IFSP timeline, referrals, transition planning.

**Pitfall:** a report that ends at score classifications; Part C expects results explained to the family.

## Before the note is signed

- ☐ Edition, materials, and both ages named
- ☐ Caregiver-reported credit labeled, never written as observed
- ☐ Every scale score carries interval and percentile
- ☐ Corrected age only through 24 months, both ages given
- ☐ State rule quoted, applied in its own currency
- ☐ Percent delay only by the state's own method
- ☐ Family summary in plain language with next steps

## Drafting with AI

Give it the facts: edition and materials, both ages with any correction, which credits came from caregiver report, AC, EC, and TL scores with intervals, the language sample and parent-inventory findings, the state rule.

*"Draft a PLS-5 results section: chronological age 20 months, corrected 19 months (born at 35 weeks), AC 94 (95% CI 87 to 101), EC 70 (64 to 76, 2nd percentile), TL 80, questionnaire credits labeled, CDI vocabulary 24 words, rule 1.5 SD in one area."*

**Never paste patient-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.**

### SS 100/15, three scales

AC, EC, Total Language, each with interval

### AC or EC alone

can qualify when Total Language does not

### SD is one currency

percent delay only by the state's method

### Correct through 24 months

36 weeks or less; both ages reported

# PLS-5 Results Section Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements. Contains no test content.

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient (initials): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_

Edition, form + materials: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages + eligibility rule applied: \_\_\_\_\_

## Referral, edition, and ages

Referral question · evaluation dates · edition and form · chronological and corrected age with gestational age and the policy that authorizes correction

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Evidence sources

Which credited behaviors came from caregiver report on the Home Communication Questionnaire, which were observed, and which were elicited in session

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Behavioral and validity conditions

Engagement and attention · hearing status · home languages and exposure · interpreter or telepractice · whether the normative comparison fits this child

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Scale scores with intervals

AC, EC, and Total Language: standard score (mean 100, SD 15) · confidence interval · percentile · descriptor in prose · GSV recorded · age equivalent only where a form requires one

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Converging evidence

Language sample (context, length, findings) · independent parent-report inventory such as the CDI · Articulation Screener result · hearing screen or audiology result

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Eligibility analysis

Criterion quoted and applied in its own currency (SD from standard scores; percent delay only by the state's method) · AC or EC alone if the rule allows · other sources · informed clinical opinion · the team decides

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Family summary and next steps

Plain language: what is easier, what is harder, what the family reported, whether the criterion was met · IFSP timeline · referrals · transition planning near age three

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clinician (name and credentials): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_