



Understanding Your Child's Test Results

As parents, receiving your child's standardised test results with any report can feel overwhelming. This guide will help you understand what these scores mean, how to interpret them, and most importantly, how to use this information to support your child's educational journey.

What Are Standardised Scores?

Standardised scores show how your child's performance compares to other children of the same age. Instead of just looking at raw scores (number of questions correct), results are converted using data from a large "norm group" that serves as a benchmark.

The average standardised score is set at 100:

Scores above 100

Indicate performance above average for that age group.

Scores below 100

Indicate performance below average for that age group.



These scores help create a fair comparison across different children, different tests, and even across time as your child grows.

Understanding the Average Range

The Purple Zone: Average Range

Scores between **85 and 115** fall within the average range (shown in **purple overleaf**). About two-thirds of all children score in this range, making it the most common outcome.

The Statistical Average

A score of **100** represents the exact statistical average. Children scoring near 100 are performing very typically for their age group.

Percentile Perspective

In percentile terms, the average range spans from the **16th percentile to the 84th percentile**, representing the middle 68% of children.



Beyond the Average Range

Above Average Range (Blue)

Scores between **115-129** (84th-97th percentile) indicate performance above what's typical for the age group. Children in this range often find these particular skills easier than most peers.

Significantly Above Average (Orange)

Scores of **130+** (98th percentile and above) show performance significantly above typical levels. These are areas of notable strength.

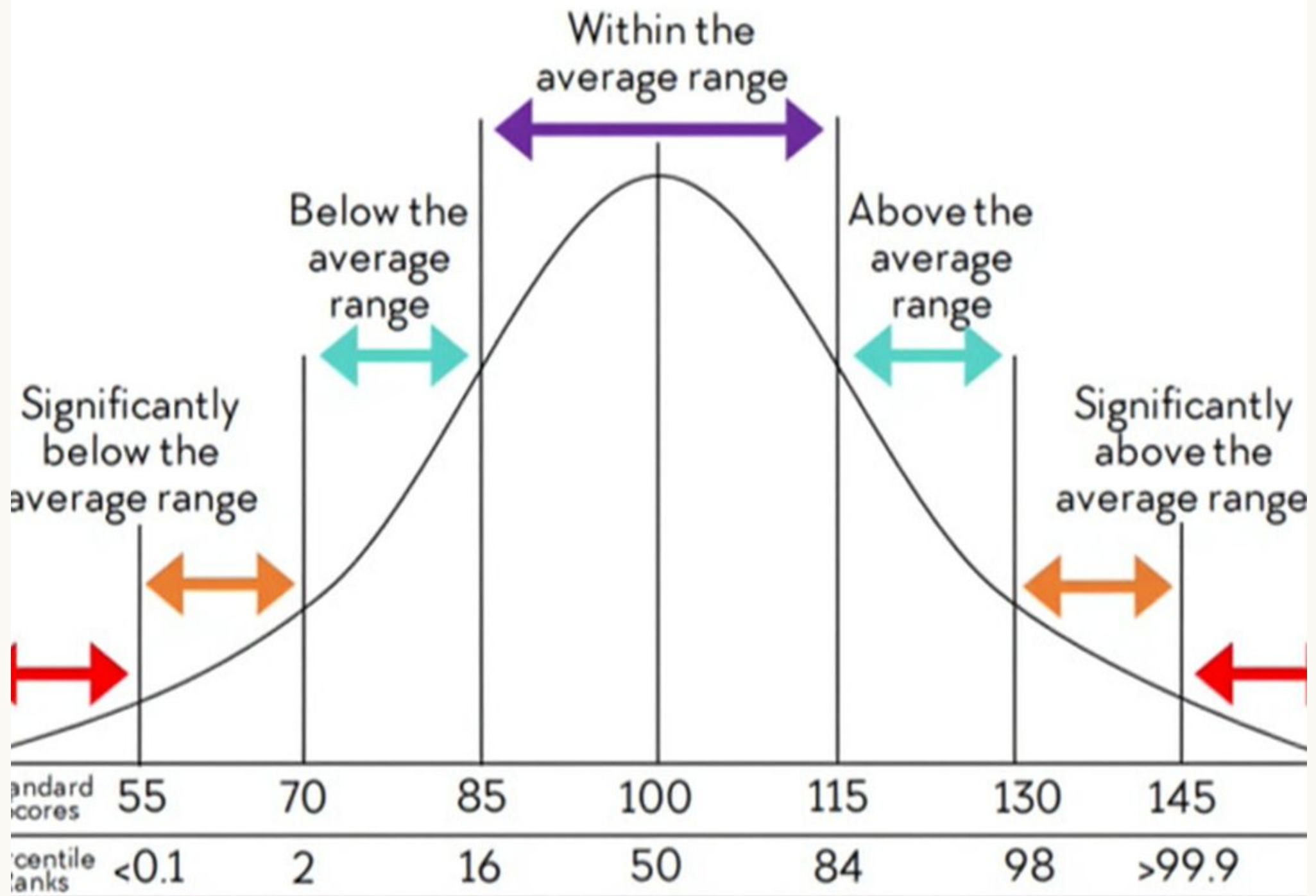
Below Average Range (Blue)

Scores between **70-84** (2nd-15th percentile) indicate skills that may be more challenging than for most peers. Additional support may be beneficial in these areas.

Significantly Below Average (Orange)

Scores of **55-69** (below the 2nd percentile) suggest areas where your child may need more substantial support or specialized interventions.

Understanding your child's scores





The Bell Curve Distribution

Test scores typically follow what's called a "bell curve" or "normal distribution." This means:

- Most children (about 68%) score in the average range (85-115)
- Fewer children (about 14% on each side) score in the above average (115-129) or below average (70-84) ranges
- Very few children (about 2% on each end) score in the significantly above (130+) or below (below 70) ranges

This distribution is entirely natural and expected in any large group of children.

Why Professionals Use These Tests



Fair

Every child answers the same questions in the same way, creating a level playing field for comparison.



Reliable

Tests are carefully designed and trialed to give consistent results across different settings.



Comparable

Results can be compared across ages, settings, and time periods to track progress.



Objective

Results are based on data rather than subjective observation or opinion.

What Below-Average Scores Really Mean



- ❑ A below average score does **not** mean your child cannot learn or succeed.

Below average scores simply indicate areas where:

- Your child may find learning more challenging than peers
- Different teaching approaches might be beneficial
- Additional practice or support could help
- Specialized strategies might make a significant difference
- Progress may happen at a different pace

Many children with below average scores in certain areas go on to develop strong skills with the right support and strategies.



Using Test Results Constructively

1

Focus on the Full Picture

Test scores are just one piece of information. Consider your child's classroom performance, teacher observations, and your own insights about their strengths and challenges.

2

Identify Patterns

Look for patterns across different subtests. Are there areas of consistent strength? Are there specific types of tasks that seem more challenging?

3

Discuss Results with Professionals

Talk with teachers, counselors, or the assessment provider about what these results mean for your child's education and what specific supports might help.

4

Track Progress Over Time

Use test results as baseline information. Future assessments can help track progress and determine if interventions are working effectively.



Remember: Your Child Is More Than A Score

Test scores provide valuable information, but they never capture the whole child – their creativity, determination, kindness, humor, and countless other qualities that make them unique.

Children develop at different rates and have different strengths

Many skills that lead to success aren't measured by standardized tests

With the right support, children can make significant progress in challenging areas

Your encouragement and belief in your child's abilities are powerful factors in their success