

the child's poor articulation interferes with his or her ability to communicate effectively. Many children are eligible for services on the basis of their articulation (particularly preschool-age children), and, therefore, a referral for further assessment should be discussed with the child's caregiver. A detailed discussion of interpreting parents' answers on the Overall section appears later in this chapter in Reviewing the Overall Section of the ASQ-3.

Scoring Questionnaires with Omitted Items

When a parent does not provide answers to all of the items on a questionnaire, attempts should be made to contact the parent as soon as possible to obtain his or her response(s) to the missing item(s). If the missing responses are provided, the person scoring the questionnaire should follow the steps outlined in the previous section. *Please note that an area should **not** be scored when more than 2 items are left unanswered.*

Sometimes, parents omit items because they are unsure of how to respond or because they have concerns about their children's performance on those items. For whatever reason, it is important to reach parents when items are left unanswered to obtain an answer. If contacting the parent is not possible, or if it is inappropriate to complete the item, then an adjusted total area score can be computed. Adjusted total area scores do not penalize children for unanswered items. An adjusted total area score is computed by dividing the total area score by the number of items answered in that area.

$$\text{total area score} \div \text{number of items answered in that area} = \text{average total score for that area}$$

This formula will yield a number between 0 and 10. The adjusted item score is then added to the other item scores, producing a total area score that can be compared against the cutoff points on the ASQ-3 Information Summary sheet. If two items were omitted, then the adjusted item score is added twice to the other item scores.

$$\text{average total score} + \text{scores for other items} = \text{adjusted total area score}$$

Another method to determine adjusted total area scores is to use the information provided in Table 6.2; this information is also available in the *ASQ-3 Quick Start Guide*. After calculating the total area score (with omitted items), find that score on the left-hand column and follow across to determine the adjusted total area score. This adjusted total area score can be compared against the cutoff points on the ASQ-3 Information Summary sheet.

Table 6.2. Score adjustment chart for the ASQ-3 when item responses have been omitted

Area score (for the items that have responses)	Adjusted total area score (one omitted item)	Adjusted total area score (two omitted items)
50	60	—
45	54	—
40	48	60
35	42	52.5
30	36	45
25	30	37.5
20	24	30
15	18	22.5
10	12	15
5	6	7.5
0	0	0