Language Development Test

Directions: Fill in the responses for the administration of the grammatical closure task on the copy of the test given below. First, calculate a score in terms of the normative responses given for the items. After you have done this, calculate a dialect adjusted total score, in which you give the subject credit for items that represent normative dialect structures. You should end up with two scores, a standard total score and a dialect adjusted total score. What is the difference between the two scores? Finally, consider any "non-correct" responses that are not directly attributable to grammatical dialect differences but might be attributable to the way the task has been set up. How do you think these items should be treated in the scoring? Why?

A. Regular Plurals *
1. Here is one dog. Here are two ____. (dogs)
   (If the student says puppies, indicate this and mark the item as correct.)
2. Here is one cat. Here are two _____. (cats)
   (If the student says kittens, indicate this and mark the item as correct.)
3. Here is one watch. Here are two _____. (watches)

* No more than 1/3 of forms should delete plural -s.

B. Irregular Plurals
4. Here is a tooth. Here are some ____. (teeth)
5. Here is a foot. Here are two _____. (feet)
6. Here is a man. Here are two _____. (men)

Reminder: (This page is to remind the student of the children's names.) Say, "Remember the names of the children are Matt (point), Ann (point), and Butch (point)."

C. Noun Possessives
7. Whose bike is this? It is _____. (Matt's)
8. Whose bike is this? It is _____. (Ann's)

D. Personal Pronouns
The girl has a new hat. The hat belongs to her.
9. The girl has a new watch. The watch belongs to _______. (her)
10. The boy has some new skis. The skis belong to _______. (him)
11. They have a radio to share. The radio belongs to all of _______. (them)

E. Possessive Pronouns
The boy won a new dog. The dog is his.
12. His father won a new coat. The coat is _______. (his)
13. His mother won a new dress. The dress is _______. (hers)
14. They all won a new car. The car is _____. (theirs).

F. Third Person Singular
15. Here Matt types. Here he _____. (writes/draws)
16. Here Ann jumps. Here she _____. (swims)

G. Regular Past Tense
17. Here is Matt jumping the fence. This is the fence Matt _____. (jumped)
18. Here is Ann climbing a ladder. Here is the ladder Ann _____. (climbed)
19. Here is Butch painting a picture. This is the picture Butch _______. (painted)

H. Irregular Past Tense
20. Here is Matt writing a letter. This is the letter Matt _____. (wrote)
21. Here is Ann getting a present. This is the present Ann _______. (got)
   (If the student says received, prompt one time with "Can you say it another way?" and repeat the item.)
22. Here is Butch making an airplane. This is the airplane Butch _______. (made)
   (If the student substitutes the word built indicate this and count the item as correct.)

I. Auxiliary + ing
For the following two items, if the student says the present tense without the auxiliary, e.g., swing instead of are swinging for Item 23, prompt one time with "Can you say it another way? Remember, here Matt is fishing (point) and here..." (repeat item, e.g., "Ann and Matt...").

Here Matt is fishing
23. Here Ann and Matt _____. (are swinging)
24. Here Butch _____. (is running)

J. Derivation of Nouns from Verbs
25. This man paints. He is called a _______. (painter)
26. This girl jogs. She is called a _______. (jogger)
   (If the student substitutes the word runner, indicate this and count the item as correct.)
27. This woman teaches. She is called a _______. (teacher)
K. Adjective Derivation
28. Mother said, "You can't eat because your hands have dirt on them." She could have said, "You can't eat because your hands are ________." (dirty)
29. The teacher said, "We won't go outside with this much noise in the room." She could have said "We won't go outside because it's too ________." (noisy)
30. Ann said, "Matt, you have all the luck." She could have said, "You are very ________." (lucky)

L. Formation of Comparative and Superlative
31. This boy is a fast runner, but this boy is ________ . (faster)
32. and this boy is the ________ . (fastest)
33. This man is strong, but this man is ________ . (stronger)
34. and this man is the ________ . (strongest)

M. Demonstratives
35. Matt said, "I don't want those apples. I'll take some of ________." (those/these)
36. Ann said, "I want this book, and I want ________." (that book/one)

Total = __________

DIALECT ADJUSTED TOTAL = __________