

Being a Parent
Grade 5/Year 6

Fast Track Project Technical Report Addendum
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Table of Contents

- I. Scale Description
- II. Scaling Results

Citation

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group. (1990). Being A Parent.

Report

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Data Sources

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I. Scale Description

The **Being a Parent** scale is an adaptation of the Parenting Sense of Competence (PSOC) scale (Gibaud-Wallston & Wandersman, 1978), which includes two dimensions, *Efficacy* and *Satisfaction* (Johnston & Mash, 1989). The 12 items of the Being a Parent scale were constructed to assess a parent's sense of competence and satisfaction with parenting. Each item is measured on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 7 (Strongly Agree). The parent is asked to respond to each item, indicating their agreement or disagreement with each statement.

II. Scaling Results

This addendum to the technical report is based upon Year 6, Cohort 1 data, including both High-Risk Control and Normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total sample size (including an overlap of 71 respondents) is 407, with 337 Normative and 141 High-Risk control subjects. The Normative sample consists of 168 (49.85%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 153 (45.40%) Black, 172 (51.04%) White and 12 (3.56%) Others. The High-Risk Control sample consists of 101 (71.63%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 65 (46.10%) Black, 73 (51.77%) White and 3 (2.13%) Other races. The total sample had almost an equal percentage of respondents from the four different sites: Durham (28.99%), Nashville (22.60%), Pennsylvania (26.54%) and Seattle (21.87%).

Prior to this update, two scales for the Being a Parent measure were derived from exploratory factor analyses in the first and fifth years, with dimensions designated as either Parental Efficacy or Parental Satisfaction. This factor structure was confirmed in Years 2 and 3, with both the Normative and High-Risk control samples. The scales for this updated report in Year 6 were obtained by conducting the same confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) procedure with maximum-likelihood estimation used in Years 2 and 3. The two constructs were tested together and the same simple measurement model was utilized, allowing for the intercorrelation among the two dimensions (exogenous variables) and individual error components

for each item. The standardized loading coefficients of the CFAs are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of Confirmatory Factor Analysis, Standardized Coefficients by Sample

Item #		Normative Sample (n=337)	High Risk Control Sample (n=141)
<u>Factor 1: Parental Efficacy – Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha</u>		<i>.7546</i>	<i>.7789</i>
2	You would make a fine model for a new parent to learn how to be a good parent.	.7078	.8139
3	You feel like you are doing a good job as a parent.	.7556	.7481
4	If something is troubling your child, you can figure out what it is.	.3979	.5251
6	You know what you need to do to be a good parent.	.5541	.6034
8	Being a parent is as satisfying as you expected.	.4320	.4168
9	You honestly believe you have all the skills necessary to be a good parent to you child.	.6677	.5827
<u>Factor 2: Parental Satisfaction – Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha</u>		<i>.7995</i>	<i>.7996</i>
1R	It's hard to know whether you're doing a good job or a bad job as a parent.	.3344	.3908
5R	Your talents and interests are in other areas, not in being a parent.	.4966	.3691
7R	Parenting leaves you feeling drained and exhausted.	.7285	.7285
10R	Being a parent makes you tense and anxious.	.8072	.8447
11R	It's really difficult to decide how to parent your child.	.7637	.7784
12R	It seems like you are so busy as a parent that you never get anything done.	.7011	.6970
		<i>CFI</i>	<i>.9563</i>
		<i>Correlation of Factors</i>	<i>.0577</i>

R – Scale Reversed

References

- Gibaud-Wallston, J. & Wandersman, L.P. (1978). *Development and utility of the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Toronto.
- Johnston, C. & Mash, E.J. (1989). A measure of parenting satisfaction and efficacy. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology, 18*, 167-175.