

**Child Behavior Checklist**  
Kindergarten / Year 1  
Fast Track Project Technical Report  
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**Citation**

Instrument

Achenbach, T.M. (1991). Manual for the Child Behavior Checklist / 4 – 18 and 1991 Profile. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont Department of Psychiatry.

Report

Iselin, A. R. (2011). Child Behavior Checklist (Year 1) (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

**I. Scale Description**

The Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) is composed of 113 items designed to record, in a standardized format, behavioral problems and competencies of children aged 4 through 18, as reported by their parents or other primary caregivers. The CBCL allows for the calculation of raw scores and t-scores, normed separately for girls and boys, in 8 different behavioral domains: Withdrawn, Somatic Complaints, Anxious/Depressed, Social Problems, Thought Problems, Attention Problems, Delinquent Behavior and Aggressive Behavior. The domain of Sex Problems (items 5, 59, 60, 73, 96, and 110) is *not* scored for this age group of children, although the items responses are available.

**II. Report Sample**

This technical report is based upon Year 1, Cohort 1 data, including both High-Risk Control and Low-Risk Normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total sample size was 536 with 383 normative participants and 153 control participants. Seventy-nine children were part of both the normative group and the high risk. Our analyses however, examine non-overlapping samples such that the Normative sample is comprised of only Low-Risk respondents and the Control sample is comprised of only high risk respondents. Thus, the total sample size for our analyses is 457, with 304 Low-Risk Normative and 153 High-Risk Control subjects. The total sample was fairly evenly spread across all sites: Durham (27.3%), Pennsylvania (27.1%), Nashville (22.9%), and Seattle (22.7%).

**III. Scaling**

A parent or primary caregiver rates each item on a 3-step response scale: (0) - not true, (1) somewhat or sometimes true and (2) - very true or often true. The item responses are scored using a program which accompanies the instrument, providing both raw total scores and t-scores, normed by gender, for each domain. The items comprising each behavioral domain are:

Withdrawn: 42, 65, 69, 75, 80, 88, 102, 103, and 111.

Somatic Complaints: 51, 54, 56a, 56b, 56c, 56d, 56e, 56f, 56g, and, if applicable, 56h.  
 Anxious / Depressed: 12, 14, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 45, 50, 52, 71, 89, 103, and 112.  
 Social Problems: 1, 11, 25, 38, 48, 55, 62, and 64.  
 Thought Problems: 9, 40, 66, 70, 80, 84, and 85.  
 Attention Problems: 1, 8, 10, 13, 17, 41, 45, 46, 61, 62, and 80.  
 Delinquent Behavior: 26, 39, 43, 63, 67, 72, 81, 82, 90, 96, 101, 105, and 106.  
 Aggressive Behavior: 3, 7, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 37, 57, 68, 74, 86, 87, 93, 94, 95, 97, and 104.

Additionally, the CBCL had three broad-band scores: Internalizing, Externalizing and Total Problems. The Internalizing scale is comprised of items from the Withdrawn, Somatic Complaints and Anxious / Depressed scales. The Externalizing scale is comprised of items from the Delinquent Behavior and Aggressive Behavior domains. The Total Problems scale is comprised of all items, except for items 2 and 4 (allergies and asthma).

#### IV. Differences Between Groups

A series of independent t-tests were conducted to assess differences between the Normative and High-Risk Control samples. For these analyses, the Normative sample consisted of only Low-Risk respondents. Results indicated statistically significant higher mean scores for the High-Risk Control sample across all domains and composite scores (i.e., broadband scores):

Low-Risk Normatives (n=304) vs High-Risk Controls (n=153)

Scales	t-value	df	p-value	Means (SD)	
				Low-Risk Normative	High-Risk Control
Withdrawn	3.04	269	0.003	54.53(5.70)	56.43(6.60)
Somatic Complaints	3.13	283	0.002	54.56(6.11)	56.57(6.66)
Anxious / Depressed	4.54	241	<0.001	54.05(5.62)	57.16(7.48)
Social Problems	5.11	276	<0.001	55.26(7.09)	59.16(7.97)
Thought Problems	4.88	259	<0.001	54.35(6.04)	57.69(7.31)
Attention Problems	5.98	262	<0.001	54.98(6.54)	59.36(7.79)
<b>Composites</b>					
Delinquent Behavior	6.70	240	<0.001	55.50(6.59)	60.91(8.83)
Aggressive Behavior	8.26	259	<0.001	55.02(6.94)	61.52(8.39)
Internalizing	4.97	290	<0.001	50.97(9.52)	55.85(10.08)
Externalizing	9.61	326	<0.001	52.19(9.85)	61.12(9.13)
Total Problems	8.57	319	<0.001	52.29(10.01)	60.50(9.50)

\* T-test with correction for degrees of freedom (df) given statistical inequality of variances.

#### V. Recommendations for Use

The CBCL provides a standardized, normative framework for evaluating a parent's or primary caregiver's observations of a child across 8 domains and 3 broadband scores, covering several DSM diagnoses. High-Risk control participants scored significantly higher than Low-Risk Control participants across all domains and composite scores.