Child Behavior Checklist
Grade 2 / Year 3
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 3) (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normed separately for girls and boys, in 8 different behavioral domains: Withdrawn, Somatic Complaints,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 3, Cohort 1 data, including both High-Risk Control and Low-Risk
Normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total sample size was 508 with 362 normative
participants and 146 control participants. Seventy-four children were part of both the normative group and
the high risk control group. 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 434, with 284 Low-Risk
Normative and 142 High-Risk Control subjects. More of the total sample was gathered from the Durham
(28.8%) and Pennsylvania (27.0%) sites than from the Nashville (21.9%), and Seattle (22.4%) sites.

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Withdrawn: 42, 65, 69, 75, 80, 88, 102, 103, and 111.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. With two exceptions (i.e., the withdrawn and somatic complaints subscales), results indicated statistically significant higher mean scores for the High-Risk Control sample across domains and composite scores (i.e., broadband scores):

Low-Risk Normatives (n=284) vs High-Risk Controls (n=142)

				Means (SD)	
				Low-Risk	High-Risk
Scales	t-value	df	p-value	Normative	Control
Withdrawn	1.75	253	0.08	54.94(6.53)	56.22(7.39)
Somatic Complaints	1.87	289	0.06	55.67(7.01)	56.99(6.82)
Anxious / Depressed	4.28	236	<0.001	55.82(7.13)	59.46(8.80)
Social Problems	5.36	256	<0.001	55.69(7.32)	60.05(8.20)
Thought Problems	4.06	246	<0.001	55.13(7.14)	58.46(8.39)
Attention Problems	6.37	230	<0.001	55.10(6.73)	60.35(8.59)
Composites					
Delinquent Behavior	7.87	212	<0.001	55.01(6.31)	61.67(9.05)
Aggressive Behavior	7.60	229	<0.001	54.71(6.89)	61.13(8.83)
Internalizing	4.00	277	<0.001	52.86(10.55)	57.25(10.76)
Externalizing	9.33	288	<0.001	51.60(9.75)	60.81(9.54)
Total Problems[a]	--	--	--	--	--

[a] = A T-score was not calculated this year for Total Problems; * 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.