

Parent-Child Communication, Parent Report
Grade 8/Year 9

FAST Track Project Technical Report
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Table of Contents

- I. Scale Description
- II. Report Sample
- III. Scaling
- IV. Differences Between Groups
- V. Recommendations for Use
- VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's
- VII. Scale Correlations
- VIII. References

Citation

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group. (1994). Parent-Child Communication, (Parent).

Report

McCarty, C.A. & Doyle, S.R. (2001). Parent-Child Communication, (Parent) (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Data Sources

Raw: p9x

Scored: pcp9

I. Scale Description

The **Parent-Child Communication Scale, Parent Report**, adapted from the Revised Parent-Adolescent Communication Form of the Pittsburgh Youth Study (see Loeber, Farrington, Stouthamer-Loeber, & Van Kammen, 1998; Thornberry, Huizinga, & Loeber, 1995), is a 20-item measure which assesses primary caregivers' perceptions of their openness to communication and their children's communication skills. The answers are coded on 5-point scales where 1 represents "almost never" and 5 represents "almost always." Scale scores were derived using Exploratory Factor Analysis, as detailed in the appendix.

Note: The scaling for this measure has changed since the original Fast Track Technical Report was written by McMahan, Jones, and Kim (1997).

II. Report Sample

This technical report is based upon Year 9, Cohort 1 data, including both high-risk control and normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total N (including overlap) was 368, with 305 normative and 126 high-risk control youth.

95 parents (21% of cohort) were missing observations for the entire measure, including parents of 82 normative youth (21%) and 29 high-risk youth (19%). The missing cases included 19 observations from

the Durham site, 31 observations from Nashville, 20 observations from Pennsylvania, and 25 observations from Seattle. Data were missing for parents of 39 girls and 56 boys. Ethnic breakdown for missing data was: 1 Asian, 40 Black, 4 Hispanic, 45 White, 5 Other.

III. Scaling

Each scale score was calculated by taking an average of the items comprising the scale, if at least 50% of the items were non-missing. The scaling procedure was derived from exploratory factor analyses on the Normative and High-Risk Control (HRC) samples, conducted separately for the Parent and Child Communication items at Year 5.

The resulting scales, associated reliability estimates and descriptive indices for the Normative and HRC samples are provided below. Four items (Items 8, 14, 18, 19) were not used in the scales due to a conceptual difference between them and the other items, as well as lowered internal consistency when these items were retained. Higher scores indicate better communication (Parent Communication), more restriction of certain topics of communication (Parent Restricted Topics), more empathy (Child Empathy/Listening) and more appropriate emotional expression (Child Emotional Expression).

Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha

	<u>Normative (n=305)</u>	<u>HRC (n =126)</u>
Parent Communication (Items 1, 4, 7, 9, 13, 20)	.72	.66
Parent Restricted Topics (Items 6, 17)	.57	.66
Child Empathy/Listening (Items 2, 3, 5)	.69	.69
Child Emotional Expression (Items 10, 11r, 12r, 15r, 16)	.76	.75

IV. Differences Between Groups

A series of independent t-tests were conducted to assess differences between the Low-Risk respondents (Normative sample excluding the overlapping High-Risk Subjects, n = 242) and the High-Risk Control sample (including overlapping Normative youth, n = 126). Results indicated that Low-Risk parents rated higher scores on Parent Communication, Child Empathy/Listening, and Child Emotional Expression, indicating better communication between Low-Risk youth and their parents, compared to High-Risk controls. No significant differences emerged on the Parent Restricted Topics scale.

<u>PCC-P Scale</u>	<u>DF</u>	<u>t Value</u>	<u>Pr > t </u>	<u>Low-Risk Mean (n=242)</u>	<u>High-Risk Mean (n=126)</u>
Parent Communication	366	2.67	.008	4.11	3.93
Parent Restricted Topics	366	-0.43	.670	1.70	1.73
Child Empathy/Listening	366	3.38	.0008	3.88	3.60
Child Emotional Expression*	366	2.83	.005	3.83	3.60

V. Recommendations for Use

Note that this scaling should supercede that used in the original Technical Report written by McMahon, Jones, and Kim (1997). Related constructs, although measured by different combinations of items and informed by child-report, can be found on the Parent-Child Communication, Child Report measure.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's

ITEM MEANS- NORMATIVE SAMPLE

Variable	Label	Mean	Std Dev	N
P9XC1	Can Discuss Beliefs Without Embarassment	4.334	0.925	305
P9XC2	Child is Good Listener	3.964	0.991	305
P9XC3	Child is Empathic	3.980	0.863	304
P9XC4	Parent Satisfied with Communication	4.075	0.938	305
P9XC5	Child Tries to Understand Parents View	3.489	0.980	305
P9XC6	Child Avoids Discussing Things	2.154	1.045	305
P9XC7	Discuss Childs Problems with Child	3.787	1.005	305
P9XC8	Child Insults Parent When Angry	1.669	1.047	305
P9XC9	Can Tell Child How Parent Really Feels	4.259	0.890	305
P9XC10	Child Talks about Personal Problems	3.434	1.016	304
P9XC11	Child Keeps Feelings to Self	2.597	1.072	305
P9XC12	Child Hides Anger	1.797	0.989	305
P9XC13	Encourage Child to Form Own Opinion	4.187	0.824	305
P9XC14	Difficult to Tell if Child is Upset	2.292	1.005	305
P9XC15	Child Piles Up Probs Till Overwhelming	1.879	1.133	305
P9XC16	Child Tells Parent What Bothers Child	3.659	1.007	305
P9XC17	Certain Topics Not Allowed to Discuss	1.318	0.693	305
P9XC18	Child Admits Mistakes	2.862	1.201	305
P9XC19	Child Can Disagree with Parent	3.787	1.149	305
P9XC20	Achieve Solutions in Problem Discussions	3.702	0.963	305

ITEM MEANS-HIGH-RISK CONTROLS

Variable	Label	Mean	Std Dev	N
P9XC1	Can Discuss Beliefs Without Embarassment	4.1517937	1.036	126
P9XC2	Child is Good Listener	3.6984127	1.060	126
P9XC3	Child is Empathic	3.8819524	0.900	126
P9XC4	Parent Satisfied with Communication	3.8650794	1.038	126
P9XC5	Child Tries to Understand Parents View	3.2222222	1.102	126
P9XC6	Child Avoids Discussing Things	2.1111111	1.052	126
P9XC7	Discuss Childs Problems with Child	3.7708413	1.052	126
P9XC8	Child Insults Parent When Angry	1.9523810	1.144	126
P9XC9	Can Tell Child How Parent Really Feels	4.0793651	0.909	126
P9XC10	Child Talks about Personal Problems	3.2400000	1.103	125
P9XC11	Child Keeps Feelings to Self	2.6904762	1.120	126
P9XC12	Child Hides Anger	1.8650794	1.046	126
P9XC13	Encourage Child to Form Own Opinion	4.1756032	0.801	126
P9XC14	Difficult to Tell if Child is Upset	2.3978254	0.989	126
P9XC15	Child Piles Up Probs Till Overwhelming	2.1835397	1.280	126
P9XC16	Child Tells Parent What Bothers Child	3.4920635	1.108	126
P9XC17	Certain Topics Not Allowed to Discuss	1.3571429	0.732	126
P9XC18	Child Admits Mistakes	2.6984127	1.188	126

P9XC19	Child Can Disagree with Parent	3.7142857	1.151	126
P9XC20	Achieve Solutions in Problem Discussions	3.5406825	0.993	126

Scale Means

Scale	Normative Sample (n=305)		High-Risk Control (n=126)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Parent Communication	4.06	0.59	3.93	0.59
Parent Restricted Topics	1.74	0.73	1.73	0.77
Child Empathy/Listening	3.81	0.74	3.60	0.81
Child Emotional Expression	3.76	0.75	3.60	0.80

VII. Scale Correlations

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, Normative Sample above Diagonal (n=305), High-Risk Controls below diagonal (n=126).

	PCOMM	PRT	CEL	CEE
Parent Communication	1.00	-0.32	0.62	0.55
Parent Restricted Topics	-0.29	1.00	-0.14	-0.30
Child Empathy/Listening	0.64	-0.04	1.00	0.51
Child Emotional Expression	0.50	-0.36	0.45	1.00

VIII. References

- Loeber, R., Farrington, D.P., Stouthamer-Loeber, M., & Van Kammen, W.B. (1998). Antisocial behavior and mental health problems: Explanatory factors in childhood and adolescence. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- McMahon, R., Jones, K., & Kim, H. (1997). Parent-Child Communication Scale, Parent Report (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>
- Thornberry, T., Huizinga, D., & Loeber, R. (1995). The prevention of serious delinquency and violence: Implications from the Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency. In J. Howell, B. Krisberg, D. Hawkins, & J.D. Wilson (Eds.), Sourcebook on serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders (pp. 213-327). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.