

School Adjustment – Child
Grade 7 /Year 8

Fast Track Project Technical Report
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Citation

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1997). *School Adjustment*. Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Reports

Corrigan, A. (2003). *School Adjustment – Child, Grade 7 /Year 8* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>¹

Maumary-Gremaud, A. (2000). *School Adjustment – Child, Grade 6 /Year 7* (Fast Track Technical Report) Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>²

Data Sources

Unscored: C8Y

Scored: SAC8

I. Scale Description

The School Adjustment – Child questionnaire is a 20-item scale that evaluates children's perceptions of their current adjustment to school. The questionnaire also asks if the child has changed schools. The School Adjustment – Child questionnaire was created for the Fast Track Project.

Each item on the questionnaire contains a statement about a school experience; for example, "I stayed out of trouble with teachers and disciplinarians at school." The child selects the response that estimates how true each statement is for the past school year. Questionnaire items include statements about academic performance, discipline problems, and interactions with other students and staff. Response choices include: "Never True" (1), "Seldom True" (2), "Sometimes True" (3), "Usually True" (4), and "Always True" (5).

A parent version of the School Adjustment questionnaire was also administered to parents of children involved in the Fast Track Project. (See the separate technical report for School Adjustment – Parent.) The parent version and the child version have 12 items in common.

¹ This report.

² The Year 7 report.

II. Report Sample

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 8. The data include a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total N = 463, including overlap. Ninety-two of the 463 are missing responses for the entire School Adjustment – Child questionnaire, including 68 from the normative group (12 from Durham, 20 from Washington, 14 from Pennsylvania, and 22 from Nashville), and 24 from the control group (including 5 from Durham, 6 from Nashville, 6 from Pennsylvania, and 7 from Washington), with overlap between the normative and control groups. These measures are not included in the analyses.

III. Scaling

A previous study of the School Adjustment – Child questionnaire (Maumary-Gremaud, 2000) identified three subscales: Relationships with Other Students (containing items 3, 4, 8, 9, 13 and 14), Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties (items 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, and 19), and General Aspects about the School and Teachers (items 6, 11, 17, 18 and 20). Results of the study also suggested that Item 16 does not belong on any subscale; therefore, this item is not included in the Year 8 analyses. The ordering of responses in items 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19 was reversed before scoring to provide consistency among all the item responses. Higher scores indicate better school adjustment; lower scores indicate poorer adjustment.

The alpha coefficients for the normative sample and control sample are:

	Normative Sample	Control Sample
Relationships with Other Students	0.77	0.73
Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties	0.72	0.69
General Aspects / School and Teachers	0.72	0.75

IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests of subscale means for the normative sample and the high-risk control sample yielded the following results:

	Normative Sample		Control Sample		DF	t Value	Pr > t
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Relationships with Other Students	4.44	0.61	4.29	0.66	383	-2.32	0.0207
Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties	3.73	0.61	3.37	0.64	383	-5.41	<.0001
General Aspects / School and Teachers	3.98	0.69	3.66	0.83	383	-3.98	<.0001

A summary of frequencies for the question “Did you enter a new school?” (NEWSCH) is in the table below:

“Entered New School” by Group			
Entered new school Yes=1 No=0	Sample		
Frequency Col Pct	Control	Normative	Total
Did not enter new school (0)	68 51.91	146 57.48	214 55.58
Entered new school (1)	63 48.09	108 42.52	171 44.42
Total	131	254	385
Frequency Missing = 78			

For the NEWSCH variable (Did you enter a new school?), with $\chi^2 (1, N = 385) = 1.09, p < 0.29$, the hypothesis of independence between risk category (Normative or High-Risk Control) and entering a new school cannot be rejected for Year 8 data.

V. Recommendations for Use

The Relationships with Other Students subscale has a ceiling effect in the normative sample, with 51% of scores at or above 4.66. In the control group, Relationships with Other Students has a slight negative skew, with 41% of the scores at or above 4.66. T-tests of means for all subscales on the School Adjustment – Child questionnaire show significant differences between the normative and control groups. Correlations among subscales are moderate and all three subscales also have moderate internal consistency. Depending on the construct of interest, these subscales should be useful to analysts.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs

**Item Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 8, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
rc8y1	School year difficult	3.37	319	1.08	1.00	5.00
C8Y2	Easy time handling academic demands	3.34	319	1.00	1.00	5.00
C8Y3	Got along with friends	4.28	319	0.91	1.00	5.00
rc8y4	Other kids hit/made fun of me	4.36	319	1.03	1.00	5.00
C8Y5	Stayed out of trouble	3.61	319	1.20	1.00	5.00
C8Y6	I had a good year at school	3.97	319	1.06	1.00	5.00
rc8y7	School work was really hard	3.26	319	1.05	1.00	5.00
rc8y8	I had a hard time making friends	4.46	319	0.86	1.00	5.00
rc8y9	Other kids tried to make me do bad thing	4.64	319	0.80	1.00	5.00
rc8y10	I got into trouble this year	3.97	319	1.19	1.00	5.00
C8Y11	I liked the new things about school	3.44	319	1.13	1.00	5.00
rc8y12	I did not do well in academics	3.34	319	1.13	1.00	5.00
rc8y13	I did not have many friends	4.49	319	0.95	1.00	5.00
rc8y14	Other kids bothered me this year	4.20	319	1.01	1.00	5.00
rc8y15	Teachers were on me because I broke rule	3.96	319	1.20	1.00	5.00
rc8y17	Teachers do not care about kids	4.43	319	0.97	1.00	5.00
C8Y18	Kids will succeed at my school	4.04	319	1.05	1.00	5.00
rc8y19	Bad things happen to me at school	4.41	319	0.89	1.00	5.00
C8Y20	School is fun	3.59	319	1.19	1.00	5.00

**Item Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Control, Year 8, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
rc8y1	School year difficult	3.30	131	1.06	1.00	5.00
C8Y2	Easy time handling academic demands	3.07	131	0.95	1.00	5.00
C8Y3	Got along with friends	4.27	131	0.93	1.00	5.00
rc8y4	Other kids hit/made fun of me	4.15	131	1.11	1.00	5.00
C8Y5	Stayed out of trouble	3.23	131	1.13	1.00	5.00
C8Y6	I had a good year at school	3.68	131	1.14	1.00	5.00
rc8y7	School work was really hard	3.19	131	1.09	1.00	5.00
rc8y8	I had a hard time making friends	4.44	131	0.85	1.00	5.00
rc8y9	Other kids tried to make me do bad thing	4.47	131	0.96	1.00	5.00
rc8y10	I got into trouble this year	3.44	131	1.30	1.00	5.00
C8Y11	I liked the new things about school	3.24	131	1.15	1.00	5.00
rc8y12	I did not do well in academics	3.05	131	1.21	1.00	5.00
rc8y13	I did not have many friends	4.35	131	1.07	1.00	5.00
rc8y14	Other kids bothered me this year	4.05	131	1.13	1.00	5.00
rc8y15	Teachers were on me because I broke rule	3.54	131	1.28	1.00	5.00
rc8y17	Teachers do not care about kids	4.27	131	1.06	1.00	5.00
C8Y18	Kids will succeed at my school	3.80	131	1.26	1.00	5.00
rc8y19	Bad things happen to me at school	4.17	131	0.96	1.00	5.00
C8Y20	School is fun	3.31	131	1.25	1.00	5.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 8, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
sac8frd	School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 8	4.41	319	0.63	1.67	5.00
sac8dif	School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 8	3.66	319	0.64	1.75	5.00
sac8gen	School adj child: General Aspects Yr 8	3.89	319	0.74	1.40	5.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Control Sample, Year 8, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
sac8frd	School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 8	4.29	131	0.66	2.00	5.00
sac8dif	School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 8	3.37	131	0.64	1.63	4.75
sac8gen	School adj child: General Aspects Yr 8	3.66	131	0.83	1.60	5.00

VII. Item and Scale Correlations

**All Subscales
Combined Normative and Control Samples**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 385 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0			
	sac8frd	sac8dif	sac8gen
sac8frd School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 8	1.000	0.329 0.000	0.277 0.000
sac8dif School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 8	0.329 0.000	1.000	0.437 0.000
sac8gen School adj child: General Aspects Yr 8	0.277 0.000	0.437 0.000	1.000

Item Correlations
Combined Normative and Control Samples

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 385 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0											
	rc8y1	C8Y2	C8Y3	rc8y4	C8Y5	C8Y6	rc8y7	rc8y8	rc8y9	rc8y10	C8Y11
rc8y1 School year difficult	1.000	0.148 0.004	0.161 0.001	0.243 0.000	0.144 0.005	0.200 0.000	0.340 0.000	0.194 0.000	0.252 0.000	0.180 0.000	0.103 0.043
C8Y2 Easy time handling academic demands	0.148 0.004	1.000	0.038 0.463	0.061 0.233	0.162 0.001	0.243 0.000	0.113 0.027	0.034 0.511	0.056 0.271	0.070 0.173	0.180 0.000
C8Y3 Got along with friends	0.161 0.001	0.038 0.463	1.000	0.448 0.000	0.009 0.868	0.246 0.000	0.168 0.001	0.256 0.000	0.146 0.004	0.015 0.769	0.155 0.002
rc8y4 Other kids hit/made fun of me	0.243 0.000	0.061 0.233	0.448 0.000	1.000	0.020 0.695	0.158 0.002	0.158 0.002	0.396 0.000	0.285 0.000	0.180 0.000	0.026 0.612
C8Y5 Stayed out of trouble	0.144 0.005	0.162 0.001	0.009 0.868	0.020 0.695	1.000	0.309 0.000	0.130 0.011	-0.000 0.996	0.118 0.021	0.397 0.000	0.222 0.000
C8Y6 I had a good year at school	0.200 0.000	0.243 0.000	0.246 0.000	0.158 0.002	0.309 0.000	1.000	-0.010 0.848	0.054 0.287	0.190 0.000	0.328 0.000	0.415 0.000
rc8y7 School work was really hard	0.340 0.000	0.113 0.027	0.168 0.001	0.158 0.002	0.130 0.011	-0.010 0.848	1.000	0.148 0.004	0.049 0.333	0.054 0.293	0.010 0.837
rc8y8 I had a hard time making friends	0.194 0.000	0.034 0.511	0.256 0.000	0.396 0.000	-0.000 0.996	0.054 0.287	0.148 0.004	1.000	0.170 0.001	0.030 0.563	-0.030 0.560
rc8y9 Other kids tried to make me do bad things	0.252 0.000	0.056 0.271	0.146 0.004	0.285 0.000	0.118 0.021	0.190 0.000	0.049 0.333	0.170 0.001	1.000	0.155 0.002	0.117 0.022
rc8y10 I got into trouble this year	0.180 0.000	0.070 0.173	0.015 0.769	0.180 0.000	0.397 0.000	0.328 0.000	0.054 0.293	0.030 0.563	0.155 0.002	1.000	0.163 0.001
C8Y11 I liked the new things about school	0.103 0.043	0.180 0.000	0.155 0.002	0.026 0.612	0.222 0.000	0.415 0.000	0.010 0.837	-0.030 0.560	0.117 0.022	0.163 0.001	1.000
rc8y12 I did not do well in academics	0.272 0.000	0.225 0.000	0.101 0.049	0.220 0.000	0.221 0.000	0.340 0.000	0.212 0.000	0.100 0.050	0.203 0.000	0.307 0.000	0.138 0.007
rc8y13 I did not have many friends	0.172 0.001	0.030 0.556	0.265 0.000	0.366 0.000	0.045 0.378	0.111 0.030	0.055 0.281	0.557 0.000	0.236 0.000	0.079 0.120	0.081 0.112
rc8y14 Other kids bothered me this year	0.210 0.000	-0.029 0.565	0.371 0.000	0.604 0.000	0.041 0.420	0.112 0.028	0.120 0.019	0.388 0.000	0.250 0.000	0.130 0.011	0.000 0.994
rc8y15 Teachers were on me because I broke rules	0.304 0.000	0.147 0.004	0.065 0.201	0.187 0.000	0.462 0.000	0.357 0.000	0.160 0.002	0.039 0.448	0.252 0.000	0.683 0.000	0.264 0.000
rc8y17 Teachers do not care about kids	0.244 0.000	0.067 0.190	0.131 0.010	0.202 0.000	0.166 0.001	0.337 0.000	0.068 0.185	0.086 0.090	0.184 0.000	0.303 0.000	0.239 0.000
C8Y18 Kids will succeed at my school	0.085 0.098	0.171 0.001	0.221 0.000	0.192 0.000	0.165 0.001	0.338 0.000	-0.065 0.204	0.152 0.003	0.199 0.000	0.106 0.038	0.323 0.000
rc8y19 Bad things happen to me at school	0.267 0.000	0.061 0.235	0.217 0.000	0.472 0.000	0.217 0.000	0.194 0.000	0.133 0.009	0.212 0.000	0.231 0.000	0.352 0.000	0.073 0.153
C8Y20 School is fun	0.121 0.017	0.165 0.001	0.249 0.000	0.108 0.033	0.231 0.000	0.495 0.000	0.029 0.564	0.064 0.212	0.078 0.129	0.141 0.006	0.458 0.000

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 385 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0									
	rc8y12	rc8y13	rc8y14	rc8y15	rc8y17	C8Y18	rc8y19	C8Y20	
rc8y1 School year difficult	0.272 0.000	0.172 0.001	0.210 0.000	0.304 0.000	0.244 0.000	0.085 0.098	0.267 0.000	0.121 0.017	

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 385 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0								
	rc8y12	rc8y13	rc8y14	rc8y15	rc8y17	C8Y18	rc8y19	C8Y20
C8Y2 Easy time handling academic demands	0.225 0.000	0.030 0.556	-0.029 0.565	0.147 0.004	0.067 0.190	0.171 0.001	0.061 0.235	0.165 0.001
C8Y3 Got along with friends	0.101 0.049	0.265 0.000	0.371 0.000	0.065 0.201	0.131 0.010	0.221 0.000	0.217 0.000	0.249 0.000
rc8y4 Other kids hit/made fun of me	0.220 0.000	0.366 0.000	0.604 0.000	0.187 0.000	0.202 0.000	0.192 0.000	0.472 0.000	0.108 0.033
C8Y5 Stayed out of trouble	0.221 0.000	0.045 0.378	0.041 0.420	0.462 0.000	0.166 0.001	0.165 0.001	0.217 0.000	0.231 0.000
C8Y6 I had a good year at school	0.340 0.000	0.111 0.030	0.112 0.028	0.357 0.000	0.337 0.000	0.338 0.000	0.194 0.000	0.495 0.000
rc8y7 School work was really hard	0.212 0.000	0.055 0.281	0.120 0.019	0.160 0.002	0.068 0.185	-0.065 0.204	0.133 0.009	0.029 0.564
rc8y8 I had a hard time making friends	0.100 0.050	0.557 0.000	0.388 0.000	0.039 0.448	0.086 0.090	0.152 0.003	0.212 0.000	0.064 0.212
rc8y9 Other kids tried to make me do bad things	0.203 0.000	0.236 0.000	0.250 0.000	0.252 0.000	0.184 0.000	0.199 0.000	0.231 0.000	0.078 0.129
rc8y10 I got into trouble this year	0.307 0.000	0.079 0.120	0.130 0.011	0.683 0.000	0.303 0.000	0.106 0.038	0.352 0.000	0.141 0.006
C8Y11 I liked the new things about school	0.138 0.007	0.081 0.112	0.000 0.994	0.264 0.000	0.239 0.000	0.323 0.000	0.073 0.153	0.458 0.000
rc8y12 I did not do well in academics	1.000	0.151 0.003	0.191 0.000	0.372 0.000	0.237 0.000	0.125 0.014	0.194 0.000	0.213 0.000
rc8y13 I did not have many friends	0.151 0.003	1.000	0.403 0.000	0.087 0.086	0.213 0.000	0.170 0.001	0.200 0.000	0.073 0.154
rc8y14 Other kids bothered me this year	0.191 0.000	0.403 0.000	1.000	0.158 0.002	0.199 0.000	0.153 0.003	0.358 0.000	0.106 0.038
rc8y15 Teachers were on me because I broke rules	0.372 0.000	0.087 0.086	0.158 0.002	1.000	0.397 0.000	0.209 0.000	0.335 0.000	0.202 0.000
rc8y17 Teachers do not care about kids	0.237 0.000	0.213 0.000	0.199 0.000	0.397 0.000	1.000	0.311 0.000	0.203 0.000	0.259 0.000
C8Y18 Kids will succeed at my school	0.125 0.014	0.170 0.001	0.153 0.003	0.209 0.000	0.311 0.000	1.000	0.222 0.000	0.346 0.000
rc8y19 Bad things happen to me at school	0.194 0.000	0.200 0.000	0.358 0.000	0.335 0.000	0.203 0.000	0.222 0.000	1.000	0.136 0.008
C8Y20 School is fun	0.213 0.000	0.073 0.154	0.106 0.038	0.202 0.000	0.259 0.000	0.346 0.000	0.136 0.008	1.000