

Self-Efficacy in School
Grade 7/Year 8
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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March 2004

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Citation

Instrument

Cook, T.D., Habib, F., Phillips, M., Settersten, R.A., Shagle, S.C., Degirmencio, S.M. (1999). Comer's School Development Program in Prince George's County: A theory-based evaluation. American Educational Research Journal 36(3), 543-597.

Report

Kersteter, S. (2004). Self-Efficacy in School (Fast Track Project Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Data Sources

Raw: C8AJ

Scored: SEF8

I. Scale Description

The Self-Efficacy in School measure is a 6-item scale developed by Cook (1998). The measure asks the children about how they do in school at meeting parent and teacher expectations, performance in the classroom, ability to ask for help on schoolwork, etc. The scoring scale for each item in the measure ranges from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very well).

II. Report Sample

These analyses were conducted with the first cohort on the control sample (n=155) and on the normative sample (n=387, N = 463 with overlap) during the eighth year of the study. Overall, 78 records were missing the whole measure. Twenty four were missing from the control sample (5 from Durham, 6 from Nashville, 6 from Pennsylvania, and 7 from Washington) and 68 were missing from the normative sample (12 from Durham, 22 from Nashville, 14 from Pennsylvania, and 20 from Washington).

III. Scaling

Subscale scores.

Scoring procedures were used to create two scales for the Self-Efficacy in School Fast Track data. The first scale, Self-Efficacy, measures the ability of the child to meet parent and teacher expectations and get help when needed. It consists of items 1, 2 and 6. The second scale, Schoolwork, measures the individual's ability to achieve schoolwork goals. This scale consists of items 3, 4, and 5.

Cronbach's Alpha for Scales		
Variable	Normative	High Risk Control
Y8 SEF Self-Efficacy Scale (SEF8ses)	0.81	0.84
Y8 SEF Schoolwork Scale (SEF8swk)	0.76	0.76

IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests were used to examine group differences for the scales for the total sample (i.e., control vs. normative youth). Analysis of the full sample revealed that for the normative and high-risk control groups, there are significant differences for these scales ($p < .0001$ for both the Self-Efficacy scale and the Schoolwork Scale). The mean for both items is higher for the normative group than the control group (4.28 versus 3.99 for the Self-Efficacy scale and 4.10 versus 3.82 for the Schoolwork scale), which indicates that children in the normative group have higher confidence not only in their ability meet parent and teacher expectations and get help, but also in their ability to do well in schoolwork.

Comparison of Means for Normative and Control							
Variable	Normative		Control		DF	t Value	Pr > t
	Mean	Std Dev	Mean	Std Dev			
Y8 SEF Self-Efficacy Scale (SEF8ses)	4.28	0.59	3.99	0.79	383	-4.07	<.0001
Y8 SEF Schoolwork Scale (SEF8swk)	4.10	0.63	3.82	0.73	383	-3.96	<.0001

V. Recommendations for Use

Analysts should note that both scales for this measure, the Self-Efficacy in School Scale (SEF8ses) and the Schoolwork Scale (SEF8swk), were normally distributed for both the normative and high-risk control samples.

V1. Item and Scale Means and SD's

Descriptive Statistics for High Risk Control Sample						
Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
C8AJ1	How well can you live up to what your teachers expect of you?	131	3.85	1.02	1.00	5.00
C8AJ2	How well can you live up to what your parents expect of you?	131	4.14	0.99	1.00	5.00
C8AJ3	How well can you remember information presented in class and textbooks?	131	3.65	1.00	1.00	5.00
C8AJ4	How well can you finish homework assignments by deadlines?	131	3.82	1.08	1.00	5.00
C8AJ5	How well can you participate in class discussions?	131	3.98	0.99	1.00	5.00
C8AJ6	How well can you get teachers to help you when you get stuck on schoolwork?	131	3.97	1.04	1.00	5.00
SEF8ses	Y8 SEF Self-Efficacy Scale	131	3.99	0.79	1.00	5.00
SEF8swk	Y8 SEF Schoolwork Scale	131	3.82	0.73	1.00	5.00

Descriptive Statistics for Normative Sample						
Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
C8AJ1	How well can you live up to what your teachers expect of you?	319	4.12	0.91	1.00	5.00
C8AJ2	How well can you live up to what your parents expect of you?	319	4.32	0.81	1.00	5.00
C8AJ3	How well can you remember information presented in class and textbooks?	319	3.92	0.91	1.00	5.00
C8AJ4	How well can you finish homework assignments by deadlines?	319	4.11	0.93	1.00	5.00
C8AJ5	How well can you participate in class discussions?	319	4.11	0.96	1.00	5.00
C8AJ6	How well can you get teachers to help you when you get stuck on schoolwork?	319	4.20	0.85	1.00	5.00
SEF8ses	Y8 SEF Self-Efficacy Scale	319	4.22	0.64	2.00	5.00
SEF8swk	Y8 SEF Schoolwork Scale	319	4.04	0.66	1.00	5.00

VII. Item and Scale Correlations

Correlations for Full Sample

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N=385 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0						
	C8AJ1	C8AJ2	C8AJ3	C8AJ4	C8AJ5	C8AJ6
C8AJ1 - How well can you live up to what your teachers expect of you?	1.000	0.491 0.000	0.350 0.000	0.466 0.000	0.368 0.000	0.363 0.000
C8AJ2 - How well can you live up to what your parents expect of you?	0.491 0.000	1.000	0.237 0.000	0.245 0.000	0.208 0.001	0.310 0.000
C8AJ3 - How well can you remember information presented in class and textbooks?	0.350 0.000	0.237 0.000	1.000	0.306 0.000	0.205 0.000	0.278 0.000
C8AJ4 - How well can you finish homework assignments by deadlines?	0.466 0.000	0.245 0.000	0.306 0.000	1.000	0.306 0.000	0.333 0.000
C8AJ5 - How well can you participate in class discussions?	0.368 0.000	0.208 0.001	0.205 0.000	0.306 0.000	1.000	0.305 0.000
C8AJ6 - How well can you get teachers to help you when you get stuck on schoolwork?	0.363 0.000	0.310 0.000	0.278 0.000	0.333 0.000	0.305 0.000	1.000

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 385 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0		
	SEF8ses	SEF8skw
SEF8ses Y8 SEF Self-Efficacy in School Scale	1.000	0.567 0.000
SEF8skw Y8 SEF Schoolwork Scale	0.567 0.000	1.000