

Being a Parent
Grade 1/Year 2

Fast Track Project Technical Report Addendum
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Citation

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group. (1990). Being A Parent.

Report

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Data Sources

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I. Scale Description

The **Being a Parent** scale is an adaptation of the Parenting Sense of Competence (PSOC) scale (Gibaud-Wallston & Wandersman, 1978), which includes two dimensions, *Efficacy* and *Satisfaction* (Johnston & Mash, 1989). The 12 items of the Being a Parent scale were constructed to assess a parent's sense of competence and satisfaction with parenting. Each item is measured on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 7 (Strongly Agree). The parent is asked to respond to each item, indicating their agreement or disagreement with each statement.

II. Scaling Results

This addendum to the technical report is based upon Year 2, Cohort 1 data, including both High-Risk Control and Normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total sample size (including an overlap of 78 respondents) is 432, with 363 Normative and 147 High-Risk Control subjects. The Normative sample consists of 182 (50.14%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 158 (43.53%) Black, 189 (52.07%) White and 16 (4.41%) Others. The High-Risk Control sample consists of 105 (71.43%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 65 (44.22%) Black, 78 (53.06%) White and 4 (2.72%) Other races. The total sample had almost an equal percentage of respondents from the four different sites: Durham (27.31%), Nashville (22.92%), Pennsylvania (28.01%) and Seattle (21.76%).

Prior to this update, two scales for the Being a Parent measure were derived from exploratory factor analyses in the previous year, with dimensions designated as either Parental Efficacy or Parental Satisfaction. The scales for this updated report were obtained by using a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) with maximum-likelihood estimation on data from Year 2, Normative and High-Risk control samples. The two constructs were tested together and a simple measurement model was utilized, allowing for the intercorrelation among the two dimensions (exogenous variables) and individual error components for each item. The standardized loading coefficients of the CFAs are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of Confirmatory Factor Analysis, Standardized Coefficients by Sample

Item #		Normative Sample (n=363)	High Risk Control Sample (n=147)
<i>Factor 1: Parental Efficacy – Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha</i>		<i>.7278</i>	<i>.7516</i>
2	You would make a fine model for a new parent to learn how to be a good parent.	.5915	.5363
3	You feel like you are doing a good job as a parent.	.6701	.7679
4	If something is troubling your child, you can figure out what it is.	.4038	.5035
6	You know what you need to do to be a good parent.	.6042	.5775
8	Being a parent is as satisfying as you expected.	.4559	.4512
9	You honestly believe you have all the skills necessary to be a good parent to you child.	.6635	.7217
<i>Factor 2: Parental Satisfaction – Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha</i>		<i>.7885</i>	<i>.7790</i>
1R	It's hard to know whether you're doing a good job or a bad job as a parent.	.4130	.3175
5R	Your talents and interests are in other areas, not in being a parent.	.4513	.3712
7R	Parenting leaves you feeling drained and exhausted.	.6984	.7461
10R	Being a parent makes you tense and anxious.	.7511	.7729
11R	It's really difficult to decide how to parent your child.	.7481	.6863
12R	It seems like you are so busy as a parent that you never get anything done.	.6563	.7333
		<i>CFI</i>	<i>.8930</i>
		<i>Correlation of Factors</i>	<i>.1221</i>
R – Scale Reversed			

References

- Gibaud-Wallston, J. & Wandersman, L.P. (1978). *Development and utility of the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Toronto.
- Johnston, C. & Mash, E.J. (1989). A measure of parenting satisfaction and efficacy. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, 18, 167-175.