

## Parent's Check List

Grade 1 /Year 2

### **Fast Track Project Technical Report**

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#### **Citation**

##### *Instrument*

Dodge, K. A. & Coie, J. D. (1987). Social-information-processing factors in reactive and proactive aggression in children's peer groups. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 53, 1146-1158.<sup>1</sup>

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1995). *Parent's Check List*. Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/><sup>2</sup>

##### *Reports*

Corrigan, A. (2002). *Parent's Check List, Grade 1 /Year 2* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Miller-Johnson, S. & Maumary-Gremaud, A. (1995). *Parent's Check List*. (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Durham, NC: Duke University.

#### **Data Sources**

*Unscored:* P2D

*Scored:* PCL2

#### **I. Scale Description**

The Parent's Check List is a six-item scale that assesses parents' perceptions of children's aggressive behavior. The Parent's Check List is derived from a 12-item instrument developed by Dodge and Coie (1987).

Each item on the Parent's Check List contains a statement describing a child's aggression-related behavior; for example: "When your child has been teased or threatened, he or she gets angry easily and strikes back." The parent selects the response that evaluates how well the statement applies to the child. Response choices include: "Never True" (0), "Rarely True" (1), "Sometimes True" (2), "Usually True" (3), and "Almost Always True" (4).

#### **II. Report Sample**

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 2. The data include a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total n = 463, including overlap. Thirty-two of the 463 are missing responses for the

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<sup>1</sup> Original rating instrument.

<sup>2</sup> Adaptation of the original.

entire Neighborhood Questionnaire, including 24 from the normative group (3 from Durham, 12 from Washington, 3 from Pennsylvania, and 6 from Nashville), and 8 from the control group (4 from Durham and 4 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 Parent's Check List (1995) identified two subscales of three items each: the Reactive Aggression Subscale (containing items 1, 2, and 3) and the Proactive Aggression subscale (containing items 4, 5, and 6).

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

|                                      | Normative Sample | Control Sample |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Reactive Aggression Subscale</b>  | 0.75             | 0.71           |
| <b>Proactive Aggression Subscale</b> | 0.80             | 0.79           |

### IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests of 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   |     |         |         |
| <b>Reactive Aggression Subscale</b>  | 1.54             | 0.86 | 2.28           | 0.85 | 430 | 8.51    | <.0001  |
| <b>Proactive Aggression Subscale</b> | 0.40             | 0.62 | 0.97           | 0.91 | 430 | 7.78    | <.0001  |

### V. Recommendations for Use

T-tests of means for both subscales on the Parent's Check List show significant differences between the normative and control groups. The Proactive Aggression subscale is slightly positively skewed for the normative and control groups. The Proactive Aggression subscale also has a floor effect. For the normative sample, 48% of the Proactive Aggression subscores are zero. For the control sample, 24% of the Proactive Aggression subscores are zero. Analysts considering use of the Parent's Check List should keep in mind that each subscale includes only a small number of items.

### VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs

**Item Means and Standard Deviations – Parent's Check List  
Normative Sample, Year 2, Cohort 1**

| Variable | Label                                 | Mean | N   | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------|---------------------------------------|------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| P2DCL1   | Strikes back if teased                | 1.76 | 363 | 1.14    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL2   | Claims others started trouble         | 2.07 | 363 | 1.08    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL3   | Assumes accident is intentional       | 1.23 | 363 | 1.09    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL4   | Gets kids to gang up on another       | 0.35 | 363 | 0.74    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL5   | Uses threats                          | 0.63 | 363 | 0.93    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL6   | Bullies others to get his/her own way | 0.58 | 363 | 0.91    | 0.00    | 4.00    |

**Item Means and Standard Deviations – Parent’s Check List  
Control, Year 2, Cohort 1**

| Variable | Label                                 | Mean | N   | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------|---------------------------------------|------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| P2DCL1   | Strikes back if teased                | 2.24 | 147 | 1.12    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL2   | Claims others started trouble         | 2.73 | 147 | 0.93    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL3   | Assumes accident is intentional       | 1.88 | 147 | 1.13    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL4   | Gets kids to gang up on another       | 0.61 | 147 | 0.95    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL5   | Uses threats                          | 1.10 | 147 | 1.13    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| P2DCL6   | Bullies others to get his/her own way | 1.20 | 147 | 1.15    | 0.00    | 4.00    |

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – Parent’s Check List  
Normative Sample, Year 2, Cohort 1**

| Variable | Label                         | Mean | N   | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------|-------------------------------|------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| pcl2rea  | Reactive Aggression Subscale  | 1.69 | 363 | 0.91    | 0.00    | 4.00    |
| pcl2pro  | Proactive Aggression Subscale | 0.52 | 363 | 0.73    | 0.00    | 4.00    |

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – Parent’s Check List  
Control Sample, Year 2, Cohort 1**

| Variable | Label                         | Mean | N   | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------|-------------------------------|------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| pcl2rea  | Reactive Aggression Subscale  | 2.28 | 147 | 0.85    | 0.67    | 4.00    |
| pcl2pro  | Proactive Aggression Subscale | 0.97 | 147 | 0.91    | 0.00    | 4.00    |

**VII. Item and Scale Correlations**

**All Subscales  
Combined Normative and Control Samples**

| Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 432<br>Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0 |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
|   | p2drea            | p2dpro            |
| pcl2rea - Reactive Aggression Subscale                                  | 1.00000           | 0.64260<br><.0001 |
| Pcl2pro - Proactive Aggression Subscale                                 | 0.64260<br><.0001 | 1.00000           |

**Item Correlations**  
**Combined Normative and Control Samples**

| Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 432<br>Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|   | P2DCL1            | P2DCL2            | P2DCL3            | P2DCL4            | P2DCL5            | P2DCL6            |
| P2DCL1<br>Strikes back if teased  | 1.00000           | 0.50231<br><.0001 | 0.52623<br><.0001 | 0.28240<br><.0001 | 0.45507<br><.0001 | 0.49113<br><.0001 |
| P2DCL2<br>Claims others started trouble                                 | 0.50231<br><.0001 | 1.00000           | 0.53662<br><.0001 | 0.29485<br><.0001 | 0.45840<br><.0001 | 0.44727<br><.0001 |
| P2DCL3<br>Assumes accident is intentional                               | 0.52623<br><.0001 | 0.53662<br><.0001 | 1.00000           | 0.39299<br><.0001 | 0.56453<br><.0001 | 0.59121<br><.0001 |
| P2DCL4<br>Gets kids to gang up on another                               | 0.28240<br><.0001 | 0.29485<br><.0001 | 0.39299<br><.0001 | 1.00000           | 0.50720<br><.0001 | 0.46200<br><.0001 |
| P2DCL5<br>Uses threats  | 0.45507<br><.0001 | 0.45840<br><.0001 | 0.56453<br><.0001 | 0.50720<br><.0001 | 1.00000           | 0.73451<br><.0001 |
| P2DCL6<br>Bullies others to<br>get his/her own way                      | 0.49113<br><.0001 | 0.44727<br><.0001 | 0.59121<br><.0001 | 0.46200<br><.0001 | 0.73451<br><.0001 | 1.00000           |

**Appendix - SAS Scoring Program**  
[\(See Instrument Summary\)](#)