People in My Life
Grade 5/Year 6

Fast Track Project Technical Report
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November 2000

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Citation

Instrument

 Cook, E., Greenberg, M. & Kusche, C. (1995). People in My Life: Attachment relationships in middle childhood. Presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Indianapolis, Indiana.

Report

 Gifford-Smith, M. (2000). People in My Life (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: http://www.fasttrackproject.org

Data Sources

Raw: c6r

Scored: pml6

I.   Scale Description

The People in My Life measure utilized in Fast Track is a 30-item self-report instrument designed to measure attachment to parents and peers in middle childhood. It was derived from a longer, 76 item instrument (by the same name) developed by Cook, Greenberg, and Kusche (1995). People in My Life was included in the child instrument battery in study years 5 & 6.

II.   Report Sample

Exploration was conducted on Year 6, Cohort 1 data (the second year in which the instrument was used), including both high-risk control (n=155) and normative samples ($\underline{n}$=387, including overlap; total $\underline{N}$=463); treatment subjects were not included. Sixty-eight students (18% of the cohort) were missing responses for the total scale including 48 normative students (12%) and 20 high-risk students (5%). Site, gender and racial differences in the number of non-respondents are summarized below:

Site: Durham-9, Nashville-13, Pennsylvania-24, Seattle-22
Gender: Boys-41, Girls-27
Race: African Americans-20, White-22, Asian-1, Hispanic-2, and Other-5

III.   Scaling

Please see year 5 tech report, dated 10/5/00

IV.   Differences between groups

A series of t-tests indicated significant differences at the .05 level between the high risk sample and the normative sample (excluding those students also in the high risk sample) on several individual items. Means were higher in the normative sample for item p2 (parents accept me), item p15 (parents are proud of me), and item f1 (friends listen to me). Conversely, the high risk sample scored significantly higher on items p11 (get easily upset with parents) and item p13 (hard to talk to parents). Significant differences between the high risk and normative sample were also found for two of the three scale score—positive representations of parents (pml6posp) and negative representations of parents and peers (pml6nego). Specifically, children in normative sample reported more positive representations of their parents while high risk children reported more negative feelings toward significant others.

V.   Recommendations for use

For most research purposes, scoring recommendations are to use the three scaled scores described above. Two additional scoring variations may be considered to answer certain research questions. First, research on the original version of People in My Life suggests that two broad band scales reflecting attachment to parent and attachment to peers (including items p1-p15 and f1-f15, respectively, with negatively toned items reversed scored) may be acceptable. These scaled scores are included in the SAS scoring program (pmlXpatt and pmlXfatt, respectively) and information regarding their internal consistency and sample differences can be found in Appendix A. Additionally, a four factor model in which the positive representation of parents is further broken down into two subscales (positive communication, p5-p8, and acceptance, p1-p4, p9, p12, & p15) also provides an acceptable fit to the data.

VI.   Item and scale means and SD's

Item #	Content (paraphrased)	Normative sample (n=329)		High-risk controls (n=135)	
		Mean	**SD**	**Mean**	**SD**
c5rp1	My parents listen to me	3.416	0.777	3.281	0.861
c5rp2	My parents accept me	3.836	0.509	3.726	0.663
c5rp3	My parents care about me	3.915	0.356	3.889	0.399
c5rp4	My parents help me with my problems	3.690	0.612	3.667	0.635
c5rp5	My parents can tell when I'm upset	3.229	0.823	3.281	0.878
c5rp6	I talk to my parents about my problems	3.079	0.956	2.963	0.996
c5rp7	My parents ask if something is bothering me	3.356	0.844	3.267	0.883
c5rp8	I share thoughts and feelings with parents	2.994	0.991	2.941	1.006
c5rp9	My parents pay attention to me	3.599	0.688	3.533	0.771
c5rp10	My parents don't understand what I am going through	2.024	0.997	2.037	1.032
c5rp11	I get upset easily with my parents	1.936	0.965	2.119	1.023
c5rp12	I feel angry with my parents	1.632	0.778	1.756	0.868
c5rp13	Its hard for me to talk to parents	1.736	0.894	1.948	1.024
c5rp14	I feel scared at home	1.328	0.734	1.393	0.793
c5rp15	My parents are proud of me	3.647	0.718	3.496	0.863
c5rf1	My friends listen to me	3.055	0.889	2.889	0.928
c5rf2	My friends accept me	3.532	0.749	3.363	0.911
c5rf3	My friends care about me	3.371	0.857	3.326	0.818
c5rf4	My friends help me with my problems	3.198	0.934	3.148	0.981
c5rf5	My friends can tell when I'm upset	2.854	1.040	2.800	1.050
c5rf6	I talk to my friends about my problems	2.626	1.092	2.570	1.150
c5rf7	My friends ask if something is bothering me	2.881	1.007	2.767	1.022
c5rf8	I share thoughts and feelings with friends	2.717	1.031	2.659	1.052
c5rf9	My friends pay attention to me	3.140	0.917	3.037	0.950
c5rf10	My friends don't understand what I am going through	1.909	1.041	1.970	1.000
c5rf11	I get upset easily with my friends	1.835	0.983	1.850	1.017
c5rf12	I feel angry with my friends	1.581	0.777	1.689	0.893
c5rf13	Its hard for me to talk to friends	1.347	0.754	1.430	0.806
c5rf14	I feel scared at home	1.644	0.913	1.733	0.971
c5rf15	My friends are proud of me	3.116	0.946	3.015	0.985

Scale	Scale name	Normative sample		High-risk controls	
		Mean	**SD**	**Mean**	**SD**
pml5posp	positive representations of parents	3.475	0.474	3.404	0.499
pml5posf	positive representations of friend	3.049	0.635	2.957	0.678
pml5nego	negative representations of others	1.697	0.488	1.792	0.484