

Being a Parent
Grade 4/Year 5

Fast Track Project Technical Report Addendum
Suzanne Doyle & Cari McCarty
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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 technical report is based upon Year 5, Cohort 1 data, including both High-Risk Control and Normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total sample size (including an overlap of 71 respondents) is 420, with 350 Normative and 141 High-Risk Control subjects. The Normative sample consists of 174 (49.71%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 158 (45.14%) Black, 177 (50.57%) White and 15 (4.29%) Others. The High-Risk Control sample consists of 101 (71.63%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 65 (46.10%) Black, 73 (51.77%) White and 3 (2.13%) Other races. The total sample had almost an equal percentage of respondents from the four different sites: Durham (27.86%), Nashville (22.62%), Pennsylvania (26.19%) and Seattle (23.33%).

Scales for the Being a Parent measure were originally obtained from exploratory factor analyses at Year 1, and affirmed with confirmatory factor analyses at Years 2 and 3. However, given the time span since the original derivation of scales for this measure, the exploratory factor analytic procedure was conducted again at Year 5 for this update. This consisted of utilizing an Alpha factor extraction with an orthogonal Varimax rotation of the observed responses. All 12 items were used in defining the factors and six items considered to measure parental satisfaction (items 1, 5, 7, 10, 11 & 12) were reversed in scale to be consistent with the PSOC scale. The number of factors retained was derived by simultaneously

considering the magnitude of eigenvalues, differences in successive eigenvalues, the proportion of variance extracted, communality estimates, coefficient Alphas for each factor extracted prior to rotation, item content and interpretability of the resulting factors.

The results for the 12 items in this update again indicated the same two factors or scales, accounting for 38.76% of the total variance for the Normative sample and 36.53% of the total variance for the High-Risk Control sample. Communality estimates are rather low, ranging from .15 to .46 for the Normative sample, and from .19 to .52 for the High-Risk Control sample. Coefficient Alphas of the extracted factors prior to rotation are high in value, .959 and .796 for the Normative sample and .931 and .879 for the High-Risk sample. The resulting scales and factor loading coefficients are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of Exploratory Factor Analyses, Factor Loadings by Sample

Item #		Normative Sample (n=350)	High Risk Control Sample (n=141)
<i>Factor 1: Parental Efficacy – Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha</i>		.7615	.7480
2	You would make a fine model for a new parent to learn how to be a good parent.	.6659	.8285
3	You feel like you are doing a good job as a parent.	.7002	.7536
4	If something is troubling your child, you can figure out what it is.	.3308	.2464
6	You know what you need to do to be a good parent.	.7604	.8207
8	Being a parent is as satisfying as you expected.	.4861	.3564
9	You honestly believe you have all the skills necessary to be a good parent to you child.	.6224	.5750
<i>Factor 2: Parental Satisfaction – Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha</i>		.7706	.7086
1R	It's hard to know whether you're doing a good job or a bad job as a parent.	.1849	.3465
5R	Your talents and interests are in other areas, not in being a parent.	.0604	.4686
7R	Parenting leaves you feeling drained and exhausted.	.0185	.7052
10R	Being a parent makes you tense and anxious.	.0451	.6926
11R	It's really difficult to decide how to parent your child.	.1893	.7067
12R	It seems like you are so busy as a parent that you never get anything done.	.1549	.6212

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.