

**Being A Parent**  
*Grade 4/Year 5 Update*

**Fast Track Project Technical Report**  
**Cari McCarty & Suzanne Doyle**  
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**Table of Contents**

- I. Scale Description
- II. Report Sample
- III. Scaling
- IV. Differences Between Groups
- V. Recommendations for Use
- VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's
- VII. Scale Correlations
- VIII. References

**Citation**

*Instrument*

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

*Report*

McCarty, C.A. & Doyle, S.R. (2001). Being A Parent (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

**Data Sources**

*Raw:* p5h

*Scored:* bpr5

**I. Scale Description**

The **Being A Parent** scale is an adaptation of the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (Gibaud-Wallston & Wandersman, 1978), which assesses parenting self-esteem. The 12 items assess Parenting Satisfaction, an affective dimension reflecting parenting frustration, anxiety, and motivation, and Parenting Efficacy, an instrumental dimension reflecting competence, problem-solving ability, and capability in the parenting role (Johnston & Mash, 1989). Parents are asked to respond to a series of statements about parenting, indicating their agreement or disagreement. Each item is measured on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 7 (Strongly Agree).

**II. Report Sample**

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 N (including overlap of 71 respondents) was 420, with 350 parents of normative and 141 parents of high-risk control youth. The Normative sample consisted of 174 (49.71%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 158 (45.14%) Black, 177 (50.57%) White, and 15 (4.29%) Other. The High Risk Control sample consisted 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 included 117 (27.86%) parents from Durham, 95 (22.62%) parents from Nashville, 110 (26.19%) parents

from Pennsylvania, and 98 (23.33%) parents from Seattle.

Forty-three respondents (9.3% of cohort) were missing data for the entire measure. This included 37 youth from the Normative sample and 14 high-risk control youth. The missing data occurred for 17 girls and 26 boys, including 13 Black, 1 Hispanic, 3 Other, and 26 White youth. The sites from which the measure was missing were as follows: 8 Durham, 10 Nashville, 14 Pennsylvania, and 11 Washington.

### III. Scaling

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. Given the time span since the original derivation of scales for this measure, exploratory factor analysis was conducted again at Year 5 for this update (see Addendum). The factor analysis confirmed two factors that corresponded with those obtained from the Year 1 Fast Track EFA, as well as the principal component analysis of the original measure (see Johnston & Mash, 1989). These two scale scores were calculated by taking an average of the items comprising the scales. None of the observations were missing 50% or more data. The resulting scales, items that compose them, and internal consistencies (Cronbach's coefficient Alpha) are provided below.

	<u>Normative (n=350)</u>	<u>HRC (n =141)</u>
Parenting Efficacy (Items 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9)	.77	.75
Parenting Satisfaction (Items 1r, 5r, 7r, 10r, 11r, 12r)	.77	.71

### IV. Differences Between Groups

Two independent t-tests were conducted to assess differences between the Low Risk respondents (Normative sample excluding the overlapping High Risk Subjects, n = 284) and the High Risk Control sample (including 71 overlapping Normative youth, n = 141). Results indicated that parents of low risk youth reported more efficacy and more satisfaction in the parenting role.

<u>BAP Scale</u>	<u>DF</u>	<u>t Value</u>	<u>Pr &gt;  t </u>	<u>Low-Risk Mean (n=279)</u>	<u>High-Risk Mean (n=141)</u>
Parenting Efficacy	248	-4.19*	<.0001	5.72	5.38
Parenting Satisfaction	418	-5.27	<.0001	4.71	4.06

\*T-test with Satterthwaite correction for degrees of freedom (df) given statistical inequality of variances.

### V. Recommendations for Use

Factor analyses suggest that this measure yields two scales that are very similar to those obtained from the original measure (Johnston & Mash, 1989). The efficacy scale indicates an instrumental dimension of parenting, whereas the satisfaction scale indicates an affective dimension of parenting. Previous studies suggest that parents who report more child behavior problems also report lower levels of satisfaction (Mash & Johnston, 1983).

**VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs**

Being A Parent Items - Normative Sample

Variable	Label	Mean	Std Dev	N
P1HBP2	Good model for new parent	5.12	1.27	350
P1HBP3	Feel doing a good job as parent	5.89	0.88	350
P1HBP4	Figure out what is troubling child	5.69	1.07	350
P1HBP6	Know what to do to be good parent	5.87	1.01	350
P1HBP8	Parenting satisfying as expected	5.76	1.10	349
P1HBP9	Have the skills to be a good parent	5.51	1.28	348
P1HBP1r	R- Hard to know if doing a good job	3.58	1.88	350
P1HBP5r	R- Talents in other areas not parenting	5.68	1.58	349
P1HBP7r	R- Parenting draining/exhausting	4.22	1.88	350
P1HBP10r	R- Being a parent makes you tense/anxious	4.57	1.84	350
P1HBP11r	R- Difficult to decide how to parent	4.78	1.74	350
P1HBP12r	R- So busy/parent never gets things done	4.55	1.91	350

Being A Parent Items - High-Risk Control Sample

Variable	Label	Mean	Std Dev	N
P1HBP2	Good model for new parent	4.74	1.38	141
P1HBP3	Feel doing a good job as parent	5.72	0.99	141
P1HBP4	Figure out what is troubling child	5.43	1.17	141
P1HBP6	Know what to do to be good parent	5.66	1.15	141
P1HBP8	Parenting satisfying as expected	5.42	1.27	141
P1HBP9	Have the skills to be a good parent	5.32	1.27	141
P1HBP1r	R- Hard to know if doing a good job	3.32	1.77	141
P1HBP5r	R- Talents in other areas not parenting	5.46	1.57	141
P1HBP7r	R- Parenting draining/exhausting	3.44	1.76	141
P1HBP10r	R- Being a parent makes you tense/anxious	4.04	1.80	141
P1HBP11r	R- Difficult to decide how to parent	4.18	1.76	141
P1HBP12r	R- So busy/parent never gets things done	3.93	1.94	141

Scale Means

Scale	Normative Sample (n=350)		High Risk Control (n=141)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Parenting Satisfaction	4.56	1.23	4.06	1.13
Parenting Efficacy	5.64	0.75	5.38	0.81

**VII. Scale Correlations**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, Normative Sample above Diagonal (n=350), High Risk Controls below diagonal (n=141).

	<b>Efficacy</b>	<b>Satisfaction</b>
<b>Parenting Efficacy</b>	1.00	0.28

<b>Parenting Satisfaction</b>	0.08	1.00
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## VIII. References

Gibaud-Wallston, J. & Wandersman, L. P. (1978, August). 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.

Mash, E. J. & Johnston, C. (1983). Parental perceptions of child behavior problems, parenting self-esteem, and mothers' reported stress in younger and older hyperactive and normal children. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 51, 86-99.