School Adjustment – Child
Grade 9 /Year 10

Fast Track Project Technical Report
Anne Corrigan
June 27, 2003

Table of Contents

Citation

Instrument
    Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1997). *School Adjustment.*
*A*vailable from the Fast Track Project Web site, http://www.fasttrackproject.org/

Reports
    Corrigan, A. (2003). *School Adjustment – Child, Grade 9 /Year 10* (Fast Track Project Technical Report).
Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, http://www.fasttrackproject.org/[1]

    Maumary-Gremaud, A. (2000). *School Adjustment – Child, Grade 6 /Year 7* (Fast Track Technical Report)
Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, http://www.fasttrackproject.org/[2]

Data Sources

Unscored: C10Y

Scored: SAC10

I.   Scale Description

The School Adjustment – Child questionnaire is a 20-item scale that evaluates children's perceptions of their current adjustment to school. The questionnaire also asks if the child has changed schools. The School Adjustment – Child questionnaire was created for the Fast Track Project.

Each item on the questionnaire contains a statement about a school experience; for example, "I stayed out of trouble with teachers and disciplinarians at school." The child selects the response that estimates how true each statement is for the past school year. Questionnaire items include statements about academic performance, discipline problems, and interactions with other students and staff. Response choices include: "Never True" (1), "Seldom True" (2), "Sometimes True" (3), "Usually True" (4), and "Always True" (5).

A parent version of the School Adjustment questionnaire was also administered to parents of children involved in the Fast Track Project. (See the separate technical report for School Adjustment – Parent.) The parent version and the child version have 12 items in common.

---

[1] This report.
[2] The Year 7 report.

II. Report Sample

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 10. The data include a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total N = 463, including overlap. One hundred twenty-five of the 463 are missing responses for the entire School Adjustment – Child questionnaire, including 91 from the normative group (14 from Durham, 22 from Washington, 22 from Pennsylvania, and 33 from Nashville), and 34 from the control group (including 4 from Durham, 13 from Nashville, 8 from Pennsylvania, and 9 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 School Adjustment – Child questionnaire (Maumary-Gremaud, 2000) identified three subscales: Relationships with Other Students (containing items 3, 4, 8, 9, 13 and 14), Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties (items 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, and 19), and General Aspects about the School and Teachers (items 6, 11, 17, 18 and 20). Results of the study also suggested that Item 16 does not belong on any subscale; therefore, this item is not included in the Year 10 analyses. The ordering of responses in items 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19 was reversed before scoring to provide consistency among all the item responses. Higher scores indicate better school adjustment; lower scores indicate poorer adjustment.

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

	Normative Sample	Control Sample
Relationships with Other Students	0.74	0.73
Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties	0.76	0.77
General Aspects / School and Teachers	0.75	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			
Relationships with Other Students	4.51	0.52	4.42	0.61	356	-1.44	0.1498
Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties	3.80	0.60	3.54	0.70	356	-3.65	0.0003
General Aspects / School and Teachers	3.82	0.66	3.54	0.86	356	-3.36	0.0009

A summary of frequencies for the question "Did you enter a new school?" (NEWSCH) is in the table below:

"Entered New School" by Group			
Entered new school Yes=1 No=0	Sample		
Frequency Col Pct	Control	Normative	Total
Did not enter new school (0)	58 47.93	89 37.39	147 40.95
Entered new school (1)	63 52.07	149 62.61	212 59.05
Total	121	238	359
Frequency Missing = 104			

For the NEWSCH variable (Did you enter a new school?), with χ^2 (1, N = 359) = 3.6847, p < 0.054, the hypothesis of independence between risk category (Normative or High-Risk Control) and entering a new school can be rejected. In Year 10, more normative students (62.61%) than control students (52.07%) entered a new school.

V.   Recommendations for Use

T-tests of means for the Academic / Disciplinary Difficulties and the General Aspects subscales show significant differences between the normative and control groups. These subscales are also moderately correlated.

All three subscales have moderate internal consistency. The Relationships with Other Students distribution has a slight negative skew in the normative group and a ceiling effect in the control group, with 54% of scores at or above 4.66. Depending on the construct of interest, the Academic / Disciplinary Difficulties and the General Aspects subscales should be useful. Analysts who use the Relationships with Other Students subscale should be aware that it correlates poorly with the other subscales, and does not discriminate between normative and control groups for this year's respondents.

VI.   Item and Scale Means and SDs

Item Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 10, Cohort 1

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
rc10y1	School year difficult	3.61	296	0.96	1.00	5.00
C10Y2	Easy time handling academic demands	3.46	296	0.93	1.00	5.00
C10Y3	Got along with friends	4.28	296	0.79	1.00	5.00
rc10y4	Other kids hit/made fun of me	4.50	296	0.89	1.00	5.00
C10Y5	Stayed out of trouble	3.50	296	1.21	1.00	5.00
C10Y6	I had a good year at school	3.85	296	1.00	1.00	5.00
rc10y7	School work was really hard	3.42	296	0.89	1.00	5.00
rc10y8	I had a hard time making friends	4.61	296	0.71	1.00	5.00
rc10y9	Other kids tried to make me do bad things	4.51	296	0.86	1.00	5.00
rc10y10	I got into trouble this year	4.01	296	1.16	1.00	5.00
C10Y11	I liked the new things about school	3.31	296	1.04	1.00	5.00
rc10y12	I did not do well in academics	3.27	296	1.07	1.00	5.00
rc10y13	I did not have many friends	4.60	296	0.82	1.00	5.00
rc10y14	Other kids bothered me this year	4.34	296	0.92	1.00	5.00
rc10y15	Teachers were on me because I broke rules	4.08	296	1.11	1.00	5.00
rc10y17	Teachers do not care about kids	4.38	296	0.84	1.00	5.00
C10Y18	Kids will succeed at my school	3.84	296	0.93	1.00	5.00
rc10y19	Bad things happen to me at school	4.52	296	0.80	1.00	5.00
C10Y20	School is fun	3.40	296	1.13	1.00	5.00

**Item Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Control, Year 10, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
rc10y1	School year difficult	3.46	121	1.09	1.00	5.00
C10Y2	Easy time handling academic demands	3.36	121	1.02	1.00	5.00
C10Y3	Got along with friends	4.31	121	0.78	1.00	5.00
rc10y4	Other kids hit/made fun of me	4.40	121	0.98	1.00	5.00
C10Y5	Stayed out of trouble	3.32	121	1.24	1.00	5.00
C10Y6	I had a good year at school	3.69	121	1.18	1.00	5.00
rc10y7	School work was really hard	3.52	121	0.94	1.00	5.00
rc10y8	I had a hard time making friends	4.59	121	0.83	1.00	5.00
rc10y9	Other kids tried to make me do bad things	4.39	121	1.04	1.00	5.00
rc10y10	I got into trouble this year	3.55	121	1.32	1.00	5.00
C10Y11	I liked the new things about school	3.06	121	1.23	1.00	5.00
rc10y12	I did not do well in academics	3.11	121	1.15	1.00	5.00
rc10y13	I did not have many friends	4.58	121	0.93	1.00	5.00
rc10y14	Other kids bothered me this year	4.26	121	1.00	1.00	5.00
rc10y15	Teachers were on me because I broke rules	3.61	121	1.31	1.00	5.00
rc10y17	Teachers do not care about kids	4.18	121	0.93	1.00	5.00
C10Y18	Kids will succeed at my school	3.67	121	1.15	1.00	5.00
rc10y19	Bad things happen to me at school	4.41	121	0.87	1.00	5.00
C10Y20	School is fun	3.12	121	1.31	1.00	5.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 10, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
sac10frd	School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 10	4.47	296	0.55	2.00	5.00
sac10dif	School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 10	3.73	296	0.62	1.63	5.00
sac10gen	School adj child: General Aspects Yr 10	3.76	296	0.70	1.00	5.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Control Sample, Year 10, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
sac10frd	School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 10	4.42	121	0.61	2.17	5.00
sac10dif	School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 10	3.54	121	0.70	1.63	5.00
sac10gen	School adj child: General Aspects Yr 10	3.54	121	0.86	1.00	5.00

VII. <u>Item and Scale Correlations</u>

**All Subscales
Combined Normative and Control Samples**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 358 Prob > |r| under H0: Rho=0			
	sac10frd	**sac10dif**	**sac10gen**
sac10frd **School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 10**	1.000	0.287 0.000	0.184 0.000
sac10dif **School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 10**	0.287 0.000	1.000	0.537 0.000
sac10gen **School adj child: General Aspects Yr 10**	0.184 0.000	0.537 0.000	1.000

Item Correlations

Combined Normative and Control Samples

	rc10y1	C10Y2	C10Y3	rc10y4	C10Y5	C10Y6	rc10y7	rc10y8	rc10y9	rc10y10	C10Y11
rc10y1 **School year difficult**	1.000	0.225 0.000	0.124 0.019	0.286 0.000	0.168 0.001	0.261 0.000	0.413 0.000	0.249 0.000	0.294 0.000	0.285 0.000	0.192 0.000
C10Y2 **Easy time handling academic demands**	0.225 0.000	1.000	-0.037 0.482	0.074 0.164	0.280 0.000	0.231 0.000	0.169 0.001	0.062 0.241	0.097 0.067	0.126 0.017	0.301 0.000
C10Y3 **Got along with friends**	0.124 0.019	-0.037 0.482	1.000	0.306 0.000	0.066 0.214	0.232 0.000	-0.026 0.623	0.138 0.009	0.194 0.000	0.195 0.000	0.145 0.006
rc10y4 **Other kids hit/made fun of me**	0.286 0.000	0.074 0.164	0.306 0.000	1.000	-0.018 0.731	0.080 0.129	0.067 0.208	0.237 0.000	0.360 0.000	0.107 0.043	-0.009 0.870
C10Y5 **Stayed out of trouble**	0.168 0.001	0.280 0.000	0.066 0.214	-0.018 0.731	1.000	0.299 0.000	0.078 0.141	-0.128 0.016	0.097 0.067	0.491 0.000	0.380 0.000
C10Y6 **I had a good year at school**	0.261 0.000	0.231 0.000	0.232 0.000	0.080 0.129	0.299 0.000	1.000	0.065 0.223	0.017 0.754	0.126 0.017	0.354 0.000	0.546 0.000
rc10y7 **School work was really hard**	0.413 0.000	0.169 0.001	-0.026 0.623	0.067 0.208	0.078 0.141	0.065 0.223	1.000	0.104 0.049	0.053 0.319	0.058 0.272	-0.025 0.640
rc10y8 **I had a hard time making friends**	0.249 0.000	0.062 0.241	0.138 0.009	0.237 0.000	-0.128 0.016	0.017 0.754	0.104 0.049	1.000	0.159 0.003	-0.000 0.993	0.013 0.802
rc10y9 **Other kids tried to make me do bad things**	0.294 0.000	0.097 0.067	0.194 0.000	0.360 0.000	0.097 0.067	0.126 0.017	0.053 0.319	0.159 0.003	1.000	0.248 0.000	-0.020 0.702
rc10y10 **I got into trouble this year**	0.285 0.000	0.126 0.017	0.195 0.000	0.107 0.043	0.491 0.000	0.354 0.000	0.058 0.272	-0.000 0.993	0.248 0.000	1.000	0.351 0.000
C10Y11 **I liked the new things about school**	0.192 0.000	0.301 0.000	0.145 0.006	-0.009 0.870	0.380 0.000	0.546 0.000	-0.025 0.640	0.013 0.802	-0.020 0.702	0.351 0.000	1.000
rc10y12 **I did not do well in academics**	0.348 0.000	0.203 0.000	0.086 0.105	0.160 0.002	0.270 0.000	0.274 0.000	0.236 0.000	0.079 0.136	0.218 0.000	0.323 0.000	0.149 0.005
rc10y13 **I did not have many friends**	0.185 0.000	0.026 0.629	0.295 0.000	0.387 0.000	0.036 0.495	0.100 0.059	0.076 0.151	0.417 0.000	0.295 0.000	0.068 0.200	-0.008 0.886
rc10y14 **Other kids bothered me this year**	0.338 0.000	0.021 0.698	0.347 0.000	0.585 0.000	-0.031 0.559	0.168 0.001	0.071 0.183	0.352 0.000	0.303 0.000	0.103 0.051	0.025 0.632
rc10y15 **Teachers were on me because I broke rules**	0.257 0.000	0.226 0.000	0.087 0.099	0.073 0.165	0.481 0.000	0.360 0.000	0.139 0.008	-0.026 0.622	0.210 0.000	0.706 0.000	0.360 0.000
rc10y17 **Teachers do not care about kids**	0.130 0.014	0.192 0.000	0.129 0.015	0.032 0.551	0.177 0.001	0.216 0.000	0.108 0.040	0.102 0.053	0.114 0.031	0.244 0.000	0.210 0.000
C10Y18 **Kids will succeed at my school**	0.200 0.000	0.208 0.000	0.147 0.005	0.077 0.144	0.226 0.000	0.434 0.000	0.101 0.057	0.041 0.438	0.084 0.112	0.310 0.000	0.454 0.000
rc10y19 **Bad things happen to me at school**	0.378 0.000	0.182 0.001	0.243 0.000	0.390 0.000	0.248 0.000	0.342 0.000	0.167 0.002	0.108 0.042	0.240 0.000	0.423 0.000	0.261 0.000
C10Y20 **School is fun**	0.156 0.003	0.240 0.000	0.163 0.002	0.082 0.123	0.300 0.000	0.493 0.000	0.046 0.387	0.036 0.499	0.096 0.071	0.271 0.000	0.489 0.000

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 358
Prob > |r| under H0: Rho=0

	rc10y12	rc10y13	rc10y14	rc10y15	rc10y17	C10Y18	rc10y19	C10Y20
rc10y1 **School year difficult**	0.348 0.000	0.185 0.000	0.338 0.000	0.257 0.000	0.130 0.014	0.200 0.000	0.378 0.000	0.156 0.003

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 358 Prob > |r| under H0: Rho=0								
	rc10y12	**rc10y13**	**rc10y14**	**rc10y15**	**rc10y17**	**C10Y18**	**rc10y19**	**C10Y20**
C10Y2 **Easy time handling academic demands**	0.203 0.000	0.026 0.629	0.021 0.698	0.226 0.000	0.192 0.000	0.208 0.000	0.182 0.001	0.240 0.000
C10Y3 **Got along with friends**	0.086 0.105	0.295 0.000	0.347 0.000	0.087 0.099	0.129 0.015	0.147 0.005	0.243 0.000	0.163 0.002
rc10y4 **Other kids hit/made fun of me**	0.160 0.002	0.387 0.000	0.585 0.000	0.073 0.165	0.032 0.551	0.077 0.144	0.390 0.000	0.082 0.123
C10Y5 **Stayed out of trouble**	0.270 0.000	0.036 0.495	-0.031 0.559	0.481 0.000	0.177 0.001	0.226 0.000	0.248 0.000	0.300 0.000
C10Y6 **I had a good year at school**	0.274 0.000	0.100 0.059	0.168 0.001	0.360 0.000	0.216 0.000	0.434 0.000	0.342 0.000	0.493 0.000
rc10y7 **School work was really hard**	0.236 0.000	0.076 0.151	0.071 0.183	0.139 0.008	0.108 0.040	0.101 0.057	0.167 0.002	0.046 0.387
rc10y8 **I had a hard time making friends**	0.079 0.136	0.417 0.000	0.352 0.000	-0.026 0.622	0.102 0.053	0.041 0.438	0.108 0.042	0.036 0.499
rc10y9 **Other kids tried to make me do bad things**	0.218 0.000	0.295 0.000	0.303 0.000	0.210 0.000	0.114 0.031	0.084 0.112	0.240 0.000	0.096 0.071
rc10y10 **I got into trouble this year**	0.323 0.000	0.068 0.200	0.103 0.051	0.706 0.000	0.244 0.000	0.310 0.000	0.423 0.000	0.271 0.000
C10Y11 **I liked the new things about school**	0.149 0.005	-0.008 0.886	0.025 0.632	0.360 0.000	0.210 0.000	0.454 0.000	0.261 0.000	0.489 0.000
rc10y12 **I did not do well in academics**	1.000 	0.171 0.001	0.176 0.001	0.365 0.000	0.165 0.002	0.202 0.000	0.273 0.000	0.191 0.000
rc10y13 **I did not have many friends**	0.171 0.001	1.000 	0.409 0.000	0.084 0.114	0.086 0.105	0.055 0.303	0.285 0.000	0.089 0.091
rc10y14 **Other kids bothered me this year**	0.176 0.001	0.409 0.000	1.000 	0.072 0.172	0.087 0.099	0.133 0.011	0.325 0.000	0.206 0.000
rc10y15 **Teachers were on me because I broke rules**	0.365 0.000	0.084 0.114	0.072 0.172	1.000 	0.334 0.000	0.296 0.000	0.429 0.000	0.325 0.000
rc10y17 **Teachers do not care about kids**	0.165 0.002	0.086 0.105	0.087 0.099	0.334 0.000	1.000 	0.368 0.000	0.215 0.000	0.303 0.000
C10Y18 **Kids will succeed at my school**	0.202 0.000	0.055 0.303	0.133 0.011	0.296 0.000	0.368 0.000	1.000 	0.269 0.000	0.372 0.000
rc10y19 **Bad things happen to me at school**	0.273 0.000	0.285 0.000	0.325 0.000	0.429 0.000	0.215 0.000	0.269 0.000	1.000 	0.255 0.000
C10Y20 **School is fun**	0.191 0.000	0.089 0.091	0.206 0.000	0.325 0.000	0.303 0.000	0.372 0.000	0.255 0.000	1.000