

**Teacher Report Form**  
(Grade 7 / Year 8 Update)  
Fast Track Project Technical Report  
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1/14/02

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**Citation**

Instrument

Achenbach, T.M. (1991). Manual for the Child Behavior Checklist 4-18 and 1991 Profile. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont Department of Psychiatry. *Teacher Report Form*.

Report

Doyle, S.R. & McCarty, C.A. (2002). Teacher Report Form (Grade 7, Year 8 Update), (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

**I. Scale Description and Scoring Method**

The Teacher Report Form (TRF; Grade 6) includes 34 items describing externalizing behavior problems. The original version of the TRF consisted of 113 items, and included scales describing Internalizing, Externalizing, Delinquency and Aggression, Attention Problems, Withdrawal, Anxiety/Depression, Somatic Complaints, Social Problems, Thought Problems and Sex Problems. The full measure of 113 items was administered prior to Grade 6. The version used with this update only consists of the Delinquency, Aggression and Externalizing scale item responses. For these 34 items, teachers responded to each item using a 3-point Likert scale (0 - Not True (as far as you know), 1 - Somewhat or Sometimes True, 2 - Very True or Often True).

**II. Report Sample**

This technical report is based upon Year 8, Cohort 1 data, including both High-Risk Control and Normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total sample size (including an overlap of 66 respondents) is 422, with 348 Normative and 140 High-Risk Control subjects. The Normative sample consists of 177 (50.86%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 152 (49.45%) Black, 174 (50.00%) White and 22 (6.32%) others. The High-Risk Control sample consists of 102 (72.86%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 61 (43.57%) Black, 74 (52.86%) White and 5 (3.57%) other races. The total sample had a lower percentage for one site, Nashville (16.82%) than for Durham (27.96%), Pennsylvania (26.78%) and Seattle (28.44%).

**III. Scoring Method**

The original scoring method was established by Achenbach and Edelbrock (1991), which included a raw total score and T-score for the dimensions of Delinquent, Aggressive and Externalizing child behavior problems. For the purposes of this study, averages of item responses for each dimension were

calculated if 50% or more of the item responses were present, then the average was multiplied by the number of items for that scale to obtain a total score that would allow determination of the corresponding T-score according to Achenbach's 1991 profiles. The percentage of responses without missing data was 84.3%; an additional 8% of the respondents had 50% or more item responses available allowing for the calculation of an average scale score on greater than 17, but less than 34 items.

#### **IV. Differences Between Groups**

A series of independent t-tests were conducted to assess differences between the Normative and High-Risk Control samples. For these analyses, the Normative sample consisted of only Low-Risk respondents, excluding High-Risk subjects previously included in the Normative sample. Results indicated a statistically significant lower mean scale score for the Low-Risk Normative sample:

Scale	t-test	df	p-value	Means	
				Low-Risk Normative	High-Risk Control
Delinquent	-4.10	413	<.0001*	2.500	4.014
Aggressive	-5.31	413	<.0001*	9.877	16.309
Externalizing	-5.28	413	<.0001	12.373	20.317

#### **V. Recommendations for Use**

The TRF allows for the teacher's judgment of a student to be obtained in a standardized fashion. It provides for the assessment of conduct disorders. T-scores enable the comparison of the researcher's study group with a normative sample of peers.

#### **VI. Scale Reliability Estimates, Scale and Item Means and Standard Deviations (SD)**

Reliability estimates for the three scale scores and descriptive indices for the 34 items and the scale score are presented below. For the scale scores, the average was calculated if 50 percent or more item responses were available. Note, that the Normative sample reported below includes the High-Risk subjects excluded from the group analyses reported above.

<u>Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients</u>	<u>Normative</u>			<u>High-Risk Control</u>		
	Mean	SD	n	Mean	SD	n
Delinquent Behavior						
Aggressive Behavior						
Externalizing						
<i>Average Scale Score of Delinquent Behavior</i>	2.734	3.518	348	4.014	3.786	139
<i>Average Scale Score of Aggressive Behavior</i>	11.041	11.675	348	16.309	12.045	139
<i>Average Scale Score of Externalizing</i>	13.772	14.552	348	20.317	14.778	139

<b>Externalizing</b>	<b>Normative</b>			<b>High-Risk Control</b>		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>n</u>
1. Argues a lot.	0.677	0.766	344	0.957	0.779	139
2. Defiant, Talks back to Staff	0.500	0.696	344	0.863	0.791	139
3. Bragging, boasting	0.408	0.647	341	0.550	0.703	140
4. Cruelty, bullying, or meanness to others	0.333	0.598	342	0.518	0.652	139
5. Demands a lot of attention	0.688	0.783	342	0.950	0.819	139
6. Destroys his/her own things	0.091	0.307	342	0.165	0.392	139
7. Destroys property belonging to others	0.123	0.378	342	0.217	0.479	138
8. Disobedient at school	0.591	0.703	342	0.935	0.734	139
9. Disturbs other pupils	0.679	0.711	343	0.978	0.717	139
*10. Doesn't seem to feel guilty after misbehaving	0.481	0.715	339	0.836	0.836	140
11. Easily jealous	0.235	0.501	341	0.277	0.525	137
12. Gets in many fights	0.242	0.521	343	0.417	0.647	139
*13. Hangs around with others who get in trouble	0.565	0.716	340	0.715	0.737	137
*14. Lying or creating	0.339	0.585	342	0.551	0.695	138
15. Talks out of turn	0.704	0.769	341	0.971	0.807	139
16. Physically attacks people	0.202	0.505	342	0.338	0.597	139
*17. Prefers being with older children or youths	0.309	0.575	327	0.277	0.552	137
18. Disrupts class discipline	0.594	0.732	342	0.878	0.756	139
19. Screams a lot	0.174	0.475	344	0.257	0.555	140
20. Showing off or clowning	0.570	0.721	344	0.791	0.785	139
21. Explosive and unpredictable behavior	0.363	0.639	342	0.604	0.728	139
22. Demands must be met immediately, easily frustrated	0.516	0.692	343	0.757	0.785	140
*23. Steals	0.079	0.355	342	0.216	0.574	139
24. Stubborn, sullen, or irritable	0.577	0.704	343	0.843	0.771	140
25. Sudden changes in mood or feelings	0.433	0.626	344	0.640	0.712	139
*26. Swearing or obscene language	0.244	0.539	344	0.446	0.693	139
27. Talks too much	0.757	0.801	342	0.950	0.783	139
28. Teases a lot	0.500	0.674	344	0.748	0.753	139
29. Temper tantrums or hot temper	0.392	0.653	342	0.671	0.791	140
30. Threatens people	0.246	0.534	342	0.417	0.658	139
*31. Tardy to school or class	0.398	0.685	342	0.504	0.706	139
*32. Truancy or unexplained absence	0.274	0.627	343	0.338	0.654	139
33. Unusually loud	0.440	0.694	343	0.607	0.793	140
*34. Uses alcohol or drugs for nonmedical purposes	0.030	0.204	330	0.075	0.360	134

\*Items for the Delinquent Behavior scale; the other 25 items comprise the Aggressive Scale

## **VII. Scale Correlations**

Normative sample (n=322) above diagonal, High-Risk Control sample (n=139) below diagonal.

	Delinquent	Aggressive	Externalizing
Delinquent	-	.854	.988
Aggressive	.783	-	.765
Externalizing	.981	.650	-