

School Adjustment – Child

Grade 8 /Year 9

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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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. Item and Scale Correlations

Citation

Instrument

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

Reports

Corrigan, A. (2002). *School Adjustment – Child, Grade 8 /Year 9* (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: C9Y

Scored: SAC9

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 9. 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 twelve of the 463 are missing responses for the entire School Adjustment – Child questionnaire, including 83 from the normative group (15 from Durham, 19 from Washington, 19 from Pennsylvania, and 30 from Nashville), and 29 from the control group (including 5 from Durham, 9 from Nashville, 7 from Pennsylvania, and 8 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 9 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	0.72	0.64
Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties	0.76	0.65
General Aspects / School and Teachers	0.73	0.60

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	4.49	0.56	4.33	0.58	365	-2.56	0.0110
Academic and Disciplinary Difficulties	3.78	0.66	3.41	0.61	365	-5.04	<.0001
General Aspects / School and Teachers	3.85	0.75	3.65	0.74	364	-2.52	0.0121

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		
	Control	Normative	Total
Frequency			
Col Pct			
Did not enter new school (0)	88 69.84	192 79.34	280 76.09
Entered new school (1)	38 30.16	50 20.66	88 23.91
Total	126	242	368
Frequency Missing = 96			

For the NEWSCH variable (Did you enter a new school?), with $\chi^2 (1, N = 368) = 4.11, p < 0.04$, the hypothesis of independence between risk category (Normative or High-Risk Control) and entering a new school can be rejected. In Year 9, more control students (30.16%) than normative students (20.66%) entered a new school..

V. Recommendations for Use

The Relationships with Other Students subscale distribution has a ceiling effect in the normative samples, with 52% of scores at or above 4.66. The Relationships with Other Students distribution has a slight negative skew in the control group. T-tests of means for all subscales on the School Adjustment – Child questionnaire show significant differences between the normative and control groups. Correlations among subscales are moderate and all three subscales also have moderate internal consistency. Depending on the construct of interest, these subscales should be useful to analysts.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs

**Item Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 9, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
rc9y1	School year difficult	3.66	304	1.01	1.00	5.00
C9Y2	Easy time handling academic demands	3.46	304	1.00	1.00	5.00
C9Y3	Got along with friends	4.24	304	0.90	1.00	5.00
rc9y4	Other kids hit/made fun of me	4.48	304	0.90	1.00	5.00
C9Y5	Stayed out of trouble	3.46	304	1.26	1.00	5.00
C9Y6	I had a good year at school	3.93	304	1.04	1.00	5.00
rc9y7	School work was really hard	3.34	304	0.98	1.00	5.00
rc9y8	I had a hard time making friends	4.57	304	0.81	1.00	5.00
rc9y9	Other kids tried to make me do bad things	4.61	304	0.78	1.00	5.00
rc9y10	I got into trouble this year	3.97	304	1.15	1.00	5.00
C9Y11	I liked the new things about school	3.28	304	1.07	1.00	5.00
rc9y12	I did not do well in academics	3.34	304	1.16	1.00	5.00
rc9y13	I did not have many friends	4.61	304	0.78	1.00	5.00
rc9y14	Other kids bothered me this year	4.26	304	0.94	1.00	5.00
rc9y15	Teachers were on me because I broke rules	3.99	304	1.19	1.00	5.00
rc9y17	Teachers do not care about kids	4.38	304	0.96	1.00	5.00
C9Y18	Kids will succeed at my school	3.94	303	1.01	1.00	5.00
rc9y19	Bad things happen to me at school	4.43	304	0.87	1.00	5.00
C9Y20	School is fun	3.49	304	1.23	1.00	5.00

**Item Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Control, Year 9, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
rc9y1	School year difficult	3.42	126	1.05	1.00	5.00
C9Y2	Easy time handling academic demands	3.22	126	1.02	1.00	5.00
C9Y3	Got along with friends	4.20	126	0.99	1.00	5.00
rc9y4	Other kids hit/made fun of me	4.33	126	0.97	1.00	5.00
C9Y5	Stayed out of trouble	3.09	126	1.16	1.00	5.00
C9Y6	I had a good year at school	3.73	126	1.18	1.00	5.00
rc9y7	School work was really hard	3.21	126	1.13	1.00	5.00
rc9y8	I had a hard time making friends	4.41	126	1.01	1.00	5.00
rc9y9	Other kids tried to make me do bad things	4.49	126	0.90	1.00	5.00
rc9y10	I got into trouble this year	3.37	126	1.22	1.00	5.00
C9Y11	I liked the new things about school	3.20	126	1.16	1.00	5.00
rc9y12	I did not do well in academics	3.11	126	1.30	1.00	5.00
rc9y13	I did not have many friends	4.52	126	0.88	1.00	5.00
rc9y14	Other kids bothered me this year	4.02	126	1.09	1.00	5.00
rc9y15	Teachers were on me because I broke rules	3.66	126	1.22	1.00	5.00
rc9y17	Teachers do not care about kids	4.28	126	0.99	1.00	5.00
C9Y18	Kids will succeed at my school	3.73	126	1.18	1.00	5.00
rc9y19	Bad things happen to me at school	4.19	126	0.99	1.00	5.00
C9Y20	School is fun	3.29	126	1.39	1.00	5.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 9, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
sac9frd	School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 9	4.46	304	0.55	1.67	5.00
sac9dif	School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 9	3.70	304	0.66	1.00	5.00
sac9gen	School adj child: General Aspects Yr 9	3.81	303	0.74	1.60	5.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations – School Adjustment Questionnaire
Control Sample, Year 9, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
sac9frd	School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 9	4.33	126	0.58	2.33	5.00
sac9dif	School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 9	3.41	126	0.61	1.75	5.00
sac9gen	School adj child: General Aspects Yr 9	3.65	126	0.74	1.60	5.00

VII. Item and Scale Correlations

**All Subscales
Combined Normative and Control Samples**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 366 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0			
	sac9frd	sac9dif	sac9gen
sac9frd School adj child: Friends Problems Yr 9	1.000	0.378 0.000	0.272 0.000
sac9dif School adj child: Acad. and Discip. Difficulties Yr 9	0.378 0.000	1.000	0.523 0.000
sac9gen School adj child: General Aspects Yr 9	0.272 0.000	0.523 0.000	1.000

Item Correlations
Combined Normative and Control Samples

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 366 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0											
	rc9y1	C9Y2	C9Y3	rc9y4	C9Y5	C9Y6	rc9y7	rc9y8	rc9y9	rc9y10	C9Y11
rc9y1 School year difficult	1.000	0.264 0.000	0.190 0.000	0.285 0.000	0.237 0.000	0.429 0.000	0.497 0.000	0.116 0.027	0.177 0.001	0.327 0.000	0.203 0.000
C9Y2 Easy time handling academic demands	0.264 0.000	1.000	0.077 0.139	0.030 0.561	0.200 0.000	0.274 0.000	0.183 0.000	-0.039 0.453	-0.002 0.975	0.141 0.007	0.159 0.002
C9Y3 Got along with friends	0.190 0.000	0.077 0.139	1.000	0.321 0.000	0.117 0.026	0.259 0.000	0.068 0.196	0.175 0.001	0.082 0.116	0.098 0.061	0.195 0.000
rc9y4 Other kids hit/made fun of me	0.285 0.000	0.030 0.561	0.321 0.000	1.000	0.041 0.434	0.133 0.011	0.172 0.001	0.337 0.000	0.259 0.000	0.146 0.005	0.082 0.116
C9Y5 Stayed out of trouble	0.237 0.000	0.200 0.000	0.117 0.026	0.041 0.434	1.000	0.344 0.000	0.035 0.508	-0.032 0.545	0.149 0.004	0.492 0.000	0.241 0.000
C9Y6 I had a good year at school	0.429 0.000	0.274 0.000	0.259 0.000	0.133 0.011	0.344 0.000	1.000	0.160 0.002	0.065 0.216	0.102 0.052	0.325 0.000	0.472 0.000
rc9y7 School work was really hard	0.497 0.000	0.183 0.000	0.068 0.196	0.172 0.001	0.035 0.508	0.160 0.002	1.000	0.079 0.130	0.079 0.132	0.148 0.005	0.119 0.022
rc9y8 I had a hard time making friends	0.116 0.027	-0.039 0.453	0.175 0.001	0.337 0.000	-0.032 0.545	0.065 0.216	0.079 0.130	1.000	0.040 0.450	0.058 0.268	0.075 0.153
rc9y9 Other kids tried to make me do bad things	0.177 0.001	-0.002 0.975	0.082 0.116	0.259 0.000	0.149 0.004	0.102 0.052	0.079 0.132	0.040 0.450	1.000	0.311 0.000	0.079 0.133
rc9y10 I got into trouble this year	0.327 0.000	0.141 0.007	0.098 0.061	0.146 0.005	0.492 0.000	0.325 0.000	0.148 0.005	0.058 0.268	0.311 0.000	1.000	0.254 0.000
C9Y11 I liked the new things about school	0.203 0.000	0.159 0.002	0.195 0.000	0.082 0.116	0.241 0.000	0.472 0.000	0.119 0.022	0.075 0.153	0.079 0.133	0.254 0.000	1.000
rc9y12 I did not do well in academics	0.382 0.000	0.154 0.003	0.128 0.014	0.222 0.000	0.172 0.001	0.264 0.000	0.332 0.000	0.134 0.011	0.140 0.007	0.315 0.000	0.147 0.005
rc9y13 I did not have many friends	0.226 0.000	0.004 0.946	0.248 0.000	0.419 0.000	0.009 0.867	0.240 0.000	0.137 0.009	0.515 0.000	0.120 0.022	0.114 0.029	0.201 0.000
rc9y14 Other kids bothered me this year	0.251 0.000	0.003 0.956	0.344 0.000	0.568 0.000	0.127 0.015	0.136 0.009	0.100 0.057	0.319 0.000	0.257 0.000	0.218 0.000	0.144 0.006
rc9y15 Teachers were on me because I broke rules	0.372 0.000	0.213 0.000	0.093 0.074	0.163 0.002	0.395 0.000	0.373 0.000	0.181 0.001	0.039 0.462	0.262 0.000	0.682 0.000	0.258 0.000
rc9y17 Teachers do not care about kids	0.182 0.000	0.059 0.261	0.084 0.108	0.051 0.333	0.119 0.022	0.151 0.004	0.146 0.005	0.021 0.686	0.105 0.046	0.228 0.000	0.188 0.000
C9Y18 Kids will succeed at my school	0.191 0.000	0.251 0.000	0.171 0.001	-0.025 0.637	0.247 0.000	0.330 0.000	0.074 0.157	0.010 0.852	0.126 0.016	0.284 0.000	0.341 0.000
rc9y19 Bad things happen to me at school	0.258 0.000	0.042 0.419	0.195 0.000	0.478 0.000	0.188 0.000	0.190 0.000	0.131 0.012	0.280 0.000	0.238 0.000	0.375 0.000	0.186 0.000
C9Y20 School is fun	0.265 0.000	0.171 0.001	0.228 0.000	0.088 0.093	0.251 0.000	0.495 0.000	0.113 0.030	0.086 0.102	0.038 0.465	0.297 0.000	0.540 0.000

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 366 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0									
	rc9y12	rc9y13	rc9y14	rc9y15	rc9y17	C9Y18	rc9y19	C9Y20	
rc9y1 School year difficult	0.382 0.000	0.226 0.000	0.251 0.000	0.372 0.000	0.182 0.000	0.191 0.000	0.258 0.000	0.265 0.000	

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 366 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0								
	rc9y12	rc9y13	rc9y14	rc9y15	rc9y17	C9Y18	rc9y19	C9Y20
C9Y2 Easy time handling academic demands	0.154 0.003	0.004 0.946	0.003 0.956	0.213 0.000	0.059 0.261	0.251 0.000	0.042 0.419	0.171 0.001
C9Y3 Got along with friends	0.128 0.014	0.248 0.000	0.344 0.000	0.093 0.074	0.084 0.108	0.171 0.001	0.195 0.000	0.228 0.000
rc9y4 Other kids hit/made fun of me	0.222 0.000	0.419 0.000	0.568 0.000	0.163 0.002	0.051 0.333	-0.025 0.637	0.478 0.000	0.088 0.093
C9Y5 Stayed out of trouble	0.172 0.001	0.009 0.867	0.127 0.015	0.395 0.000	0.119 0.022	0.247 0.000	0.188 0.000	0.251 0.000
C9Y6 I had a good year at school	0.264 0.000	0.240 0.000	0.136 0.009	0.373 0.000	0.151 0.004	0.330 0.000	0.190 0.000	0.495 0.000
rc9y7 School work was really hard	0.332 0.000	0.137 0.009	0.100 0.057	0.181 0.001	0.146 0.005	0.074 0.157	0.131 0.012	0.113 0.030
rc9y8 I had a hard time making friends	0.134 0.011	0.515 0.000	0.319 0.000	0.039 0.462	0.021 0.686	0.010 0.852	0.280 0.000	0.086 0.102
rc9y9 Other kids tried to make me do bad things	0.140 0.007	0.120 0.022	0.257 0.000	0.262 0.000	0.105 0.046	0.126 0.016	0.238 0.000	0.038 0.465
rc9y10 I got into trouble this year	0.315 0.000	0.114 0.029	0.218 0.000	0.682 0.000	0.228 0.000	0.284 0.000	0.375 0.000	0.297 0.000
C9Y11 I liked the new things about school	0.147 0.005	0.201 0.000	0.144 0.006	0.258 0.000	0.188 0.000	0.341 0.000	0.186 0.000	0.540 0.000
rc9y12 I did not do well in academics	1.000	0.202 0.000	0.199 0.000	0.296 0.000	0.132 0.012	0.160 0.002	0.226 0.000	0.169 0.001
rc9y13 I did not have many friends	0.202 0.000	1.000	0.400 0.000	0.163 0.002	0.142 0.007	0.197 0.000	0.386 0.000	0.156 0.003
rc9y14 Other kids bothered me this year	0.199 0.000	0.400 0.000	1.000	0.242 0.000	0.083 0.113	0.173 0.001	0.433 0.000	0.160 0.002
rc9y15 Teachers were on me because I broke rules	0.296 0.000	0.163 0.002	0.242 0.000	1.000	0.249 0.000	0.296 0.000	0.414 0.000	0.227 0.000
rc9y17 Teachers do not care about kids	0.132 0.012	0.142 0.007	0.083 0.113	0.249 0.000	1.000	0.252 0.000	0.238 0.000	0.218 0.000
C9Y18 Kids will succeed at my school	0.160 0.002	0.197 0.000	0.173 0.001	0.296 0.000	0.252 0.000	1.000	0.162 0.002	0.332 0.000
rc9y19 Bad things happen to me at school	0.226 0.000	0.386 0.000	0.433 0.000	0.414 0.000	0.238 0.000	0.162 0.002	1.000	0.216 0.000
C9Y20 School is fun	0.169 0.001	0.156 0.003	0.160 0.002	0.227 0.000	0.218 0.000	0.332 0.000	0.216 0.000	1.000