

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR QUESTIONNAIRE: PARENT VERSION (ABBREVIATED)

Reference

Rothbart, M. K., Ahadi, S. A., Hershey, K. L., & Fisher, P. (2001). Investigations of temperament at three to seven years: The Children's Behavior Questionnaire. *Child Development, 72*(5), 1394-1408.

Secondary Reference

Rothbart, M. K., Ahadi, S. A., & Hershey, K. L. (1994). Temperament and social behavior in childhood. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly, 40*, 21-39.

Companion Documents

CBQ Scoring Key

CBQ Supplemental Scoring Key

Description

The 195-item *Children's Behavior Questionnaire (CBQ)* (Rothbart et al., 2001) provides a highly differentiated assessment of temperament in children ages 3-8. It was developed to measure temperament as defined by relatively enduring biological make-up, reactivity (arousability of motor, affective, and sensory response systems), and self-regulation (processes that serve to modulate reactivity). Fifteen aspects of temperament are examined; individual scale scores are combined to create factor scores for Surgency (Extraversion), Negative Affectivity, and Effortful Control (Rothbart et al., 1994). Supplemental social-emotional scales assess aggression, empathy, guilt/shame, help-seeking, and negativity (Rothbart et al., 1994).

Items on both the *CBQ* and the supplemental scales are rated on a 7-point scale ranging from 1 = *extremely untrue* to 7 = *extremely true*; a not applicable option also is provided. An abbreviated version of the *CBQ* that includes 12 temperament scales and 4 supplemental scales is available.

Rothbart et al. (2001) reported internal consistency estimates ranging from .67 to .92 for the 15 *CBQ* scales with a sample of parents of 6- and 7-year-old children. Stability coefficients from 5 to 7 years of age ranged from .55 to .79 for mother reports and .48 to .76 for father reports. Evidence for the validity of the *CBQ* was reported by Rothbart et al. (1994) in terms of predicting the social behavior patterns measured by the supplemental scales (aggression, empathy, guilt/shame, help-seeking negativity). Rothbart et al. (1994) also reported internal consistency estimates ranging from .62 to .88 for the supplemental scales.

Administration: Grade 1

The abbreviated parent version of the *CBQ* and supplemental scales was administered to mothers ($n = 99$) and fathers/partners ($n = 74$) during a site-specific home visit in Grade 1. Selected scales also were administered to mothers and caregivers as part of the common protocol at 54 months.

Temperament Scoring: See *CBQ Scoring Key*

Activity Level

Mean of 8 items: 1, 12, 25, -48, -60, 84, 93, -95. A higher score reflects more gross motor activity, including rate and extent of locomotion.

Mother report = **MG1CBQAL**

$N = 99, M = 4.34, SD = 0.78, \text{range} = 2.00-6.25, \alpha = .61$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQAL**

$N = 74, M = 4.46, SD = 0.70, \text{range} = 2.75-6.25, \alpha = .66$

Anger/Frustration

Mean of 9 items: -7, 16, 31, 39, 63, -76, 86, 89, 97. A higher score reflects more negative affectivity related to interruption of ongoing tasks or goal blocking.

Mother report = **MG1CBQAN**

$N = 99, M = 4.75, SD = 0.91, \text{range} = 3.00-6.89, \alpha = .81$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQAN**

$N = 74, M = 4.50, SD = 0.90, \text{range} = 2.67-6.56, \alpha = .82$

Attentional Focusing

Mean of 6 items: -19, -23, 59, 71, -83, -98. A higher score reflects greater capacity to maintain attentional focus on task-related channels.

Mother report = **MG1CBQAF**

$N = 99, M = 4.92, SD = 0.86, \text{range} = 2.50-6.67, \alpha = .70$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQAF**

$N = 74, M = 4.76, SD = 0.81, \text{range} = 2.83-6.33, \alpha = .72$

Fear

Mean of 6 items: 26, -34, 42, 66, -70, -79. A higher score reflects negative affectivity, including unease, worry, or nervousness, which is related to anticipated pain or distress and/or potentially threatening situations.

Mother report = **MG1CBQFE**

$N = 99, M = 3.57, SD = 1.03, \text{range} = 1.33-5.83, \alpha = .66$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQFE**

$N = 74, M = 3.67, SD = 1.03, \text{range} = 1.50-5.60, \alpha = .74$

High Intensity Pleasure

Mean of 10 items: 2, -18, -29, 41, 58, 62, 67, 82, 87, 94. A higher score reflects greater pleasure or enjoyment related to situations involving high stimulus intensity, rate, complexity, novelty, and incongruity.

Mother report = **MG1CBQHP**

$N = 99, M = 5.11, SD = 0.81, \text{range} = 2.00-7, \alpha = .77$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQHP**

$N = 74, M = 5.07, SD = 0.67, \text{range} = 3.30-6.40, \alpha = .68$

Inhibitory Control

Mean of 7 items: -13, 38, -43, -51, 69, 81, 91. A higher score reflects greater capacity to plan and to suppress inappropriate approach responses under instructions or in novel or uncertain situations.

Mother report = **MG1CBQIC**

$N = 99, M = 4.71, SD = 0.92, \text{range} = 2.00\text{-}6.57, \alpha = .77$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQIC**

$N = 74, M = 4.60, SD = 0.87, \text{range} = 1.71\text{-}6.29, \alpha = .75$

Low Intensity Pleasure

Mean of 10 items: 3, 11, 15, -37, 44, 57, -73, -74, 88, 90. A higher score reflects greater pleasure or enjoyment related to situations involving low stimulus intensity, rate, complexity, novelty, and incongruity.

Mother report = **MG1CBQLP**

$N = 99, M = 5.76, SD = 0.57, \text{range} = 3.90\text{-}7, \alpha = .68$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQLP**

$N = 74, M = 5.49, SD = 0.60, \text{range} = 4.00\text{-}6.90, \alpha = .72$

Perceptual Sensitivity

Mean of 10 items: 5, 14, -24, 36, 49, 54, -72, -78, -96, 99. A higher score reflects greater detection of slight, low-dash intensity stimuli from the external environment.

Mother report = **MG1CBQPS**

$N = 99, M = 5.15, SD = 0.74, \text{range} = 2.50\text{-}6.70, \alpha = .74$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQPS**

$N = 74, M = 4.75, SD = 0.76, \text{range} = 2.80\text{-}6.30, \alpha = .76$

Positive Approach/Anticipation

Mean of 7 items: 4, 10, 17, 46, 55, -68, 80. A higher score reflects a greater amount of excitement and positive anticipation for expected pleasurable activities.

Mother report = **MG1CBQPA**

$N = 99, M = 5.35, SD = 0.75, \text{range} = 3.57\text{-}7, \alpha = .75$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQPA**

$N = 74, M = 5.22, SD = 0.65, \text{range} = 3.57\text{-}6.86, \alpha = .67$

Sadness

Mean of 10 items: 6, 20, 33, -35, 40, 45, -52, -53, 61, -75. A higher score reflects greater negative affectivity and lowered mood and energy related to exposure to suffering, disappointment, and object loss.

Mother report = **MG1CBQSA**

$N = 99, M = 4.03, SD = 0.73, \text{range} = 2.44\text{-}5.90, \alpha = .60$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQSA**

$N = 74, M = 3.84, SD = 0.76, \text{range} = 2.40\text{-}5.50, \alpha = .75$

Shyness (vs. Social Approach)

Mean of 6 items: -9, -22, -28, 50, -56, -64. A higher score reflects greater slow or inhibited (vs. rapid) speed of approach and discomfort (vs. comfort) in social situations.

Mother report = **MG1CBQSH**

$N = 99, M = 3.13, SD = 1.27, \text{range} = 1.00\text{-}6.17, \alpha = .91$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQSH**

$N = 74, M = 3.07, SD = 1.17, \text{range} = 1.00\text{-}6.17, \alpha = .90$

Soothability (and Falling Reactivity)

Mean of 10 items: 8, 21, -27, 30, 32, 47, -65, -77, 85, -92. A higher score reflects faster rates of recovery from peak distress, excitement, or general arousal.

Mother report = **MG1CBQSO**

$N = 99, M = 4.82, SD = 0.80, \text{range} = 2.70\text{-}6.40, \alpha = .72$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQSO**

$N = 74, M = 4.76, SD = 0.66, \text{range} = 2.80\text{-}6.00, \alpha = .63$

Surgency (Extraversion) (Rothbart et al., 1994)

Mean of scores on the Activity Level, High Intensity Pleasure, Positive Approach/Anticipation, and reversed Shyness scales. Equal weights are assigned to each scale score.

Mother report = **MG1CBQSE**

$N = 99, M = 4.92, SD = 0.63, \text{range} = 3.22\text{-}6.24, \alpha = .86$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQSE**

$N = 74, M = 4.92, SD = 0.48, \text{range} = 3.62\text{-}6.35, \alpha = .78$

Negative Affectivity (Rothbart et al., 1994)

Mean of scores on the Anger/Frustration, Fear, Sadness, and reversed Soothability scales. Equal weights are assigned to each scale score.

Mother report = **MG1CBQNA**

$N = 99, M = 3.89, SD = 0.61, \text{range} = 2.53\text{-}5.43, \alpha = .84$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQNA**

$N = 74, M = 3.81, SD = 0.60, \text{range} = 2.47\text{-}5.25, \alpha = .87$

Effortful Control (Rothbart et al., 1994)

Mean of scores on the Attentional Focusing, Inhibitory Control, Low Intensity Pleasure, and Perceptual Sensitivity scales. Equal weights are assigned to each scale score.

Mother report = **MG1CBQEC**

$N = 99, M = 5.13, SD = 0.60, \text{range} = 3.24\text{-}6.35, \alpha = .87$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQEC**

$N = 74, M = 4.90, SD = 0.55, \text{range} = 3.02\text{-}6.02, \alpha = .83$

Social-Emotional Scoring: See *CBQ Supplemental Scoring Key*

Aggression

Mean of 8 items: -2, -5, 7, 8, 15, 24, 27, 30. A higher score reflects greater levels of aggressive behavior.

Mother report = **MG1CBQAG**

$N = 99, M = 3.47, SD = 1.01, \text{range} = 1.63\text{-}5.75, \alpha = .81$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQAG**

$N = 74, M = 3.37, SD = 1.08, \text{range} = 1.38\text{-}6.00, \alpha = .86$

Help-Seeking

Mean of 8 items: -3, -10, 14, 16, -21, -23, 25, 28. A higher score reflects greater levels of behavior directed toward others with the goal of enlisting their assistance.

Mother report = **MG1CBQHS**

$N = 99, M = 4.57, SD = 0.64, \text{range} = 3.00\text{-}5.88, \alpha = .52$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQHS**

$N = 74, M = 4.60, SD = 0.61, \text{range} = 3.00\text{-}6.25, \alpha = .61$

Empathy

Mean of 7 items: -1, 4, 6, 11, -18, 26, -29. A higher score reflects greater exhibition of empathy.

Mother report = **MG1CBQEM**

$N = 99, M = 5.27, SD = 0.64, \text{range} = 2.86\text{-}6.86, \alpha = .67$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQEM**

$N = 74, M = 4.96, SD = 0.66, \text{range} = 3.29\text{-}6.71, \alpha = .72$

Guilt/Shame

Mean of 7 items: -9, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20, -22. A higher score reflects greater levels of behavior indicative of guilt or shame.

Mother report = **MG1CBQGS**

$N = 99, M = 4.65, SD = 0.76, \text{range} = 2.57\text{-}6.86, \alpha = .65$

Father/partner report = **FG1CBQGS**

$N = 74, M = 4.56, SD = 0.78, \text{range} = 2.43\text{-}6.43, \alpha = .71$

Analysis Data Set

SSG1

Raw Data Sets

Mother report, *CBQ*: M1GCBQ

Father/partner report, *CBQ*: F1GCBQ

Mother report, *CBQ* supplemental scales: M1GCBQS

Father/partner report, *CBQ* supplemental scales: F1GCBQS