

Social Support Scale for Children

OVERVIEW

- This scale is designed to assess and understand the social support or approval from four source including parents, teachers, close friends, and classmates.

SUBSCALES

- **Parental Support/Regard (6)**
 - » *Some kids have parents who care about their feelings BUT other kids have parents who don't seem to care very much about their feelings*
- **Classmate Support/Regard (6)**
 - » *Some kids have classmates who like them the way they are BUT other kids have classmates who wish they were different*
- **Teacher Support/Regard (6)**
 - » *Some kids do have a teacher who cares about them BUT other kids don't have a teacher who cares about them*
- **Close Friend Support/Regard (6)**
 - » *Some kids have a close friend who they can talk to about things that bother them BUT other kids don't have a close friend who they can talk to about things that bother them*

STEPPING UP THEME(S) & OUTCOME(S)

- **Strong, Supportive Friends & Families**
 - » Youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships
- **Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety**
 - » Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity

TARGET POPULATION

- Youth between 8 and 18 years of age

LENGTH & HOW IT IS MEASURED

- 24 items
- Each item has two statements where youth need to respond to each statement with whether it is 'really true for me' or 'sort of true for me'. Items are then scored from 1 to 4, where 4 represents the most support or regard and 1 represents the least support or regard
- Self-report, paper-pencil version
- Languages: English

DEVELOPER

- Harter, S, 1985



GOOD TO KNOW

- More scoring information is available in the Manual provided as a supplemental resource [here](#)



PSYCHOMETRICS

- **Reliability**

Internal consistency ($\alpha = .72 - .88$)

- **Validity**

Construct validity

Convergent validity



LEARN MORE

- Harter, S. (1985). *Manual for the social support scale for children*. Denver: University of Denver.
- Harter, S. (1999). *The construction of the self*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Harter, S. (2012). *The construction of the self: Developmental and socio-cultural foundations*. New York: Guilford Press.

People In My Life

Name _____ Age _____ Boy Girl (check one)

	Really True for me	Sort of True for me		BUT		Sort of True for me	Really True for me
Sample Sentence							
a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids like to do fun things with a lot of other people	BUT	Other kids like to do fun things with just a few people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have parents who don't really understand them	BUT	Other kids have parents who really do understand them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have classmates who like them the way they are	BUT	Other kids have classmates who wish they were different	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have a teacher who helps them if they are upset or have a problem	BUT	Other kids don't have a teacher who helps them if they are upset or have a problem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have a close friend who they can tell problems to	BUT	Other kids don't have a close friend who they can tell problems to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have parents who don't seem to want to hear about their children's problems	BUT	Other kids have parents who do want to listen to their children's problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have classmates they can become friendly with	BUT	Other kids don't have classmates that they can become friendly with	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids don't have a teacher who helps them to do their very best	BUT	Other kids do have a teacher who helps them to do their very best	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have a close friend who really understands them	BUT	Other kids don't have a close friend who really understands them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have parents who care about their feelings	BUT	Other kids have parents who don't seem to care very much about their feelings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have classmates who sometimes make fun of them	BUT	Other kids don't have classmates who make fun of them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Really True for me	Sort of True for me		BUT		Sort of True for me	Really True for me
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids do have a teacher who cares about them		Other kids don't have a teacher who cares about them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have a close friend who they can talk to about things that bother them		Other kids don't have a close friend who they can talk to about things that bother them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have parents who treat their child like a person who really matters		Other kids have parents who don't usually treat their child like a person who matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have classmates who pay attention to what they say		Other kids have classmates who usually don't pay attention to what they say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids don't have a teacher who is fair to them		Other kids do have a teacher who is fair to them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids don't have a close friend who they like to spend time with		Other kids do have a close friend who they like to spend time with	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have parents who like them the way they are		Other kids have parents who wish their children were different	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids don't get asked to play in games with classmates very often		Other kids often get asked to play in games by their classmates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids don't have a teacher who cares if they feel bad		Other kids do have a teacher who cares if they feel bad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids don't have a close friend who really listens to what they say		Other kids do have a close friend who really listens to what they say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have parents who don't act like what their children do is important		Other kids have parents who do act like what their children do is important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids often spend their recess being alone		Other kids spend recess playing with their classmates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids have a teacher who treats them like a person		Other kids don't have a teacher who treats them like a person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some kids don't have a close friend who cares about their feelings		Other kids do have a close friend who cares about their feelings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>