

SDQ – scores interpretation

Parent rated SDQ			
	Close to average unlikely to be clinically significant	Slightly raised may reflect clinically significant problems	High substantial risk of clinically significant problems
Total difficulties score (Total 40)	0-13	14-16	17-40
Emotional symptoms score (10)	0-3	4	5-10
Conduct problems score (10)	0-2	3	4-10
Hyperactivity score (10)	0-5	6	7-10
Peer problem score (10)	0-2	3	4-10
	Close to average not clinically significant	Slightly low may be clinically significant	Low substantial risk of clinically significant problems
Prosocial behaviour score (Total 10)	6-10	5	0-4
Impact score (Total 10)	0	1	2-10

Self rated SDQ			
	Average unlikely to be clinically significant	Slightly raised may reflect clinically significant problems	This score is high substantial risk of clinically significant problems
Total difficulties score (Total 40)	0-15	16-19	17-40
Emotional symptoms score (10)	0-5	6	5-10
Conduct problems score (10)	0-3	4	4-10
Hyperactivity score (10)	0-5	6	7-10
Peer problem score (10)	0-3	4-5	4-10
	Close to average clinically significant problems unlikely	Score is slightly low may reflect clinically significant problems	Score is low there is a substantial risk of clinically significant problems
Prosocial behaviour score (Total 10)	6-10	5	0-4
Impact score (Total 10)	0	1	2-10

Please note that the SDQ has been amended for use in Australia and that Victorian clinicians should not download the SDQ versions from Goodman's website. Goodman who owns the copyright for the SDQ has also developed translated SDQ. These translations are inconsistent with the version mandated by NOCC. In particular, the question that seeks an overall opinion, and the perception of other informants (teachers and or parents) opinions on the young person's behaviour are the major difference e.g. PC1 questions 36, 37 and 38. The differences are significant with the Parent SDQ covering 4-16yrs where NOCC versions cover 4-10 and 11-17yrs.

Broad classification based information from www.sdqinfo.com © R. Goodman;
quoted in AMHOCN Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire Training Manual, April 2005

*impact score not in original citation.

SDQ sub-scales

Young person (11-17yo); Parent/caregiver (4-10yo & 11-17yo)

Rating options are: Not true; Somewhat true; Certainly true

- Average at admission/intake over the past six months

- Average at review & discharge over the past one month

- 3. Often complains of headaches, stomach aches or sickness
- 8. Many worries or often seems worried
- 13. Often unhappy, depressed or tearful
- 16. Nervous or clingy in new situations, easily loses confidence
- 24. Many fears, easily scared
- 5. Often loses temper

Emotional

- 7. Generally well behaved, usually does what adults request
- 12. Often fights with other children or bullies them
- 18. Often lies or cheats
- 22. Steals from home or school or elsewhere

Conduct

- 2. Restless, overactive, cannot stay still for long
- 10. Constantly fidgeting or squirming
- 15. Easily distracted, concentration wanders
- 21. Thinks things out before acting
- 25. Good attention span, sees chores or homework through to the end

Hyperactivity/ inattention

- 6. Rather solitary, prefers to play alone
- 11. Has at least one good friend
- 14. Generally liked by other children
- 19. Picked on or bullied by other children
- 23. Gets along better with adults than other children

Peer problems

- 1. Considerate of other people's feelings
- 4. Shares readily with other children, for example toys, food
- 9. Helpful is someone is hurt, upset or feeling ill
- 17. Kind to younger children
- 20. Often volunteers to help others (parents, teachers, other children)

Prosocial behaviour

- 28. Do the difficulties upset or distress your child?
Do the difficulties interfere with your child's everyday life in the following areas?
- 29. Home life
- 30. Friendships
- 31. Classroom learning
- 32. Leisure activities
- 33. Do these difficulties put a burden on you or the family as a whole?

Impact supplement

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