

MESSY: Matson Evaluation of Social Skills with Youngsters

Full Profile Review

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Name of the measure

MESSY: Matson Evaluation of Social Skills with Youngsters

Author(s) / Publisher(s)

- English original (US)

Author: J. L. Matson, A. F. Rotatori & W. J. Helsel.

Publisher: For free use, Sociedad Interamericana de Psicología Organismo Internacional

- Spanish translation (ES)

Author: F. X. Méndez, M. D. Hidalgo & C. J. Inglés.

- Portuguese translation (PT)

Author: J.B. Rosa, M. Rego & M. Carvalho, 2003.

Age Range

3-7 years

Age Range Information

4 to 18 years

SEL Skills targeted

Relationship skills

Scales and Subscales

Self-rating scale - 62 items

Appropriate social skills (23 items)

Inappropriate assertiveness (16 items)

Impulsive/recalcitrant (5 items)

Overconfident (5 items)

Jealousy/withdrawal (4 items)

Miscellaneous items (9 items)

Parent/Teacher rating scale - 64 items

Inappropriate Assertiveness/Impulsiveness (42 items)

Appropriate social skills (20 items)

Miscellaneous items (2 items)

Sources of information

Child, Parent, Teacher

Formats for administration

Questionnaire

Administration

Self-rating scale and a parent/teacher rating scale Individual

Scoring

Psychometric Properties

Reliability was calculated through alpha coefficients and showed high results of internal consistency:

.84 (2-to 5-years-olds)

.93 (6-to 9-year-olds and 10-to 16-year-olds)

Cronbach's α = .84-.93

Test retest over 2 weeks: r = .50 for self-report and r = .55 for teacher version.

The scale is significantly correlated with several other measures of social skills, r = [.23,.30] (Matson et al., 1983); Multiple evidence of convergent validity was found between the parent/teacher form and the Behaviour Assessment System for Children, Second Edition (BASC-2) subscales and the Autism Spectrum Disorders- Comorbidity for Children (ASD-CC) subscale (Matson et al., 2010)

Other Relevant Information

Matson, J. L., Rotatori, A. F., & Helsel, W. J. (1983). Development of a rating scale to measure social skills in children: The Matson Evaluation of Social Skills with Youngsters (MESSY). *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 21(4), 335–340. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0005-7967\(83\)90001-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0005-7967(83)90001-3)

Matson, J. L., Neal, D., Fodstad, J. C., Hess, J. A., Mahan, S., & Rivet, T. T. (2010). Reliability and validity of the Matson Evaluation of Social Skills with Youngsters. *Behavior Modification*, 34(6), 539-558. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0145445510384844>

Spanish translation: Méndez, F. X., Hidalgo, M. D., & Inglés, C. J. (2002). The Matson Evaluation of Social Skills with Youngsters. *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*, 18(1), 30-42. <https://doi.org/10.1027//1015-5759.18.1.30>

Citation

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