

# Assessment Measures

# **SDQ:** Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire

**Full Profile Review** 

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#### Name of the measure

SDQ: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire

# Author(s) / Publisher(s)

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# **Age Range**

3-7 years

# **Age Range Information**

3 to 16 years

Version for self-completion (11 to 16 years old)

## **SEL Skills targeted**

Behaviour problems

## **Scales and Subscales**

There are currently three versions of the SDQ: a short form, a longer form with an impact supplement (which assesses the impact of difficulties on the child's life) and a follow-up form. The 25 items in the SDQ comprise 5 scales of 5 items each.

Five scales:

- 1) emotional symptoms (5 items)
- 2) conduct problems (5 items)
- 3) hyperactivity/inattention (5 items)
- 4) peer relationship problems (5 items)
- 5) prosocial behaviour (5 items)
- 1) to 4) added together to generate a total difficulties score

(based on 20 items)

A slightly modified informant-rated version for the parents or nursery teachers of 3 (and 4) year olds. 22 items are identical, the item on reflectiveness is softened, and 2 items on antisocial behaviour are replaced by items on oppositionality.

#### Sources of information

Parent, Teacher

#### Formats for administration

Questionnaire



#### **Administration**

Short form: 5 minutes Long form: 10 minutes

## **Scoring**

Manual, Electronic

# **Psychometric Properties**

The predicted five-factor structure (emotional, conduct, hyperactivity-inattention, peer, prosocial) was confirmed. Internalizing and externalizing scales were relatively "uncontaminated" by one another. Reliability was generally satisfactory, whether judged by internal consistency (mean Cronbach  $\alpha$ : .73), cross-informant correlation (mean: 0.34), or retest stability after 4 to 6 months (mean: 0.62). SDQ scores above the 90th percentile predicted a substantially raised probability of independently diagnosed psychiatric disorders (mean odds ratio: 15.7 for parent scales, 15.2 for teacher scales, 6.2 for youth scales).

# **Training**

No

# **Strengths and Weaknesses**

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is an internationally recognised psychometric and behavioural screening tool.

#### **Other Relevant Information**

https://www.sdginfo.org/a0.html

https://www.corc.uk.net/outcome-experience-measures/strengths-and-difficulties-questionnaire/https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0890856709605438

#### Citation

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