Child RADAR - Scoring

The Child RADAR is an emotional health screening tool designed for use with primary school populations. It is based on a combination of risk and protective factors associated with the development of mental health difficulties. The instrument consists of six subscales, each with four items. The subscales are:

- School Connectedness
- Family Relations
- Academic Success
- Peer Acceptance
- Sporting Interest
- Acceptance of Appearance

Scores on the subscales are combined to produce a Total RADAR score. Higher scores on the RADAR, and each of its subscales, are suggestive of better social/emotional functioning and therefore with lower mental health risk; conversely, lower scores are associated lower social/emotional functioning and higher mental health risk.

Validation

The Child RADAR was validated on a sample of 339 Primary School students across 6 schools in New South Wales, Australia. Reliability of the scale, measured by Cronbach's alpha, was .86 for the Total RADAR score, with α scores on the subscales ranging from .69 to .85 (see Table 1 for descriptive data). The Child RADAR demonstrated high concurrent validity with the Centre for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children ($r = -.68**$), the Children's Anxiety Scale ($r = -.59**$) and the Student Life Satisfaction Scale ($r = .70**$). Test-retest reliability for the Total Child RADAR was .85.

Administration

The authors recommend computer based administration, via an online survey tools, such as SurveyMonkey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/) or SurveyGizmo (https://www.surveygizmo.com/). The Child RADAR takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Respondents indicate the extent to which items describe them/their life on a 3 point scale – from 0 (not at all like me/my life), 1 (A little bit like me and my life) and 2 (very much like me/my life).

Scoring

Subscales are scored by summing scores of the four items on the subscale. Scores on negatively worded items (indicated below with an *) are reversed. Subscale scores range from 0 – 8 ; the Total Child RADAR scores range from 0 – 48.

- School Connectedness Subscale; 6,12,18,24
- Family Relations Subscale: 3,9,15,21
- Academic Success Subscale: 4,10,16,22
- Sporting Interest Subscale: 2,8,14,20
- Peer Acceptance Subscale: 5,11,17,23
- Acceptance of Appearance Subscale: 1,7,13,19

Interpretation

Results can be interpreted by reference to the means and SDs in Table 1. Scores more than one standard deviation below the mean may be suggestive of an atypical response. The authors recommend interpretation according specific age and gender data.

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Table 1. *Descriptive Data and Cronbach Alpha of the Child RADAR and Subscales by Gender*

	Total Child RADAR Mean (*SD*)	SC Mean (*SD*)	FR Mean (*SD*)	AS Mean (*SD*)	SI Mean (*SD*)	PR Mean (*SD*)	AA Mean (*SD*)
Total Sample (*N*=339)	37.64 (6.81)	6.99 (1.44)	7.24 (1.27)	5.38 (1.83)	5.62 (2.36)	6.23 (1.73)	6.17 (2.10)
All Boys (n=178)	37.62 (7.08)	**6.82*** (1.57)	7.19 (1.35)	5.20 (1.81)	**5.93*** (2.26)	6.24 (1.78)	6.24 (2.08)
Boys Grade 3-4 (n= 87)	39.03 (6.88)	6.83 (1.42)	7.20 (1.37)	5.21 (1.70)	6.24 (2.04)	6.08 (1.83)	6.48 (1.99)
Boys Grade 5-6 (n=91)	37.22 (7.28)	6.81 (1.71)	7.19 (1.34)	5.20 (1.93)	5.64 (2.44)	6.38 (1.73)	6.00 (2.15)
All Girls (n=161)	37.66 (6.53)	**7.17*** (1.27)	7.29 (1.17)	5.58 (1.87)	**5.28*** (2.43)	6.23 (1.67)	6.11 (2.12)
Girls Grade 3-4 (n=67)	37.93 (6.25)	7.34 (1.15)	7.19 (1.34)	5.58 (1.75)	5.48 (2.23)	6.03 (1.66)	6.30 (2.10)
Girls Grade 5-6 (n=94)	37.47 (6.74)	7.05 (1.35)	7.35 (1.03)	5.59 (1.89)	5.14 (2.56)	6.37 (1.67)	5.97 (2.13)
α -Total Sample (*N=339*)	.86	.75	.73	.69	.84	.69	.85
α – Boys only (n=178)	.87	.75	.75	.67	.83	.71	.85
α – Girls only (n=161)	.85	.74	.71	.71	.85	.68	.84
ωt – (N=339)	.89	.82	.79	.73	.88	.81	.88

SC School Connectedness, *FR* Family Relations, *AS* Academic Success, *SI* Sporting Interest, *PA* Peer Acceptance, *AA* Acceptance of Appearance, *sig. <.05

Further information

Burns, J. R., & Rapee, R. M. (2018). School-based assessment of mental health risk in children: The preliminary development of the Child RADAR, Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

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