Parenting Satisfaction

**Instrument:** Parenting Sense of Competence scale (PSOC)

**Scale/Subscale Name:** Parental Satisfaction

**Developers:** Original PSOC by Gibaud-Wallston and Wandersman (1978) targeted at parents of infants. Adapted by Johnston and Marsh (1989) for parents of older children.

**Year:** 1978, 1989

**Target Audience(s):** Parents of children 0-17 years

**Language other than English available:** No

**Type:** Attitudes

**Data collected:** Quantitative

**Data collection format:** Self report

**Reading Level:** Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 8.1


**Level of training necessary for administration/scoring/interpretation:** None necessary. Paper and pencil scoring with the sum of ratings (after reverse scoring some items) used as a total scale score.

**Widespread Use/Professional Endorsements:** Literature review has revealed that the PSOC is one of the most commonly used tools for measuring parental self-efficacy (Jones and Prinz, 2005). The original PSOC was developed by Gibaud-Wallston and Wandersman (1978) to measure two aspects of competence in parents of infants: Skill Knowledge and Value Comforting. Johnston and Marsh (1989) translated the scale for parents of children ages 4 to 9 years and validated it using a normative sample of mothers and fathers, renaming the two factors of competence as Efficacy and Satisfaction. Gilmore and Cuskelly (2008) have provided further evidence of validity and an additional factor of Interest using a larger normative sample with parents of infants and children under the age of 18 years.
Cost of Use: No cost associated with the survey.

Description:
- Gibaud-Wallston and Wanderman (1978) original Value Comforting subscale (renamed Satisfaction by Johnston and Marsh) consists of 9 items related to “affective” dimensions of parenting including feelings of frustration, anxiety, and poor motivation for the role of parent.
- Johnston and Marsh’s (1989) Parental Efficacy subscale, adapted for parents of older children (overall wording remained the same, infant was replaced with child), confirmed Gibaud-Wallson and Wanderman’s scale items.
- Gilmore and Cuskelly (2008) indicate a 6 item subscale for Parental Satisfaction.
  - The Parental Satisfaction subscale is part of the larger PSOC that consist of 17 items and two (Efficacy and Satisfaction) and possibly three (Efficacy, Satisfaction, and Interest) factors based on various validation studies.
  - Total instrument score is used a measure of parenting self-esteem.

Psychometrics:
Information on reliability and validity are provided below. If information on a particular psychometric was not found, it is indicated as “no information provided.” It should be noted that this is not necessarily an indication of a lack of reliability or validity within a particular scale/instrument, but rather a lack of rigorous testing, for various reasons, by the developers or other researchers.

Reliability: A correlation of at least .80 is suggested for at least one type of reliability as evidence; however, standards range from .5 to .9 depending on the intended use and context for the instrument
- Test-Retest: Gibaud-Wallston and Wandersman report six week test correlations ranging from .46 to .82.
- Internal Consistency: Gibaud-Wallston and Wanderman report internal consistency of .82, Johnston and Marsh report internal consistency of .75, Gilmore and Cuskelly report internal consistencies of .72 (mothers) and .76 (fathers).
- Inter-rater reliability: No information provided

Validity: The extent a measure captures what it is intended to measure.
- Content/Face Validity: Based upon the theory that parental self-esteem is composed of self-efficacy and satisfaction that in turn moderates parent-child relationships and the ability to cope effectively with difficult child behavior.
- Criterion Validity: Low PCOC scores have been related to child behavior problems.
- Construct Validity: Confirmatory factor analyses over years of research continue to validate the two factors of Efficacy and Satisfaction within the PCOC (items of inclusion vary slightly). These factors demonstrate
independence from one another. An additional factor of interest may also be applicable to the instrument.
Construct: Effective Parenting

Scale/Subscale Name: Parental Satisfaction


Rating Scale:
Anchored scale ranging from 1=Strongly Agree to 6=Strongly Disagree

Items:

1. Even through being a parent could be rewarding, I am frustrated now while my infant/child is at his/her present age.
2. I go to bed the same way I wake up in the morning, feeling I have not accomplished a whole lot.
3. I do not know why it is, but sometimes when I’m supposed to be in control, I feel more like the one being manipulated.
4. My mother/father was better prepared to be a good mother/father than I am.
5. A difficult problem in being a parent is not knowing whether you’re doing a good job or a bad one.
6. Sometimes I feel like I’m not getting anything done.
7. My talents and interests are in other areas, not in being a parent.
8. If being a mother/father of an infant/child were only more interesting, I would be motivated to do a better job as a parent.
9. Being a parent makes me tense and anxious.

Scoring:
• Scale includes all 9 items from the original PSOC.
• Only items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9 loaded on the Efficacy scale for Gilmore and Cuskelly
• Item ratings are summed for a total scale score.
• Higher scores indicate greater parental efficacy and satisfaction.