

Communication Scale

Instrument: Communication Scale

Scale/Subscale Name: Communication Scale

Source: Youth Life Skills Evaluation Project at Penn State. Instrument also cited by the CYFAR Life Skills Project at Texas A&M University.

Developers: Susan Barkman and Krisanna Machtmes, Purdue University

Year: 2002

Target Audience(s): Youth aged 12-18 years

Language other than English available: No

Type: Behavior

Data collected: Quantitative

Data collection format: Self report – Pre/post

Reading Level: Flesh-Kincaid Grade level: 5.7

Existence of test/technical manuals, user guides, supplemental materials:

Instrument and tips on administration available online at:
<http://www.humanserviceresearch.com/youthlifeskillevaluation/>

Level of training necessary for administration/scoring/interpretation: None

Widespread Use/Professional Endorsements: Recommended by the CYFAR Life Skills Project, Youth Development Initiative, Texas A&M University.

Cost of Use: There are no costs associated with the use of this instrument. The authors request that you contact them, give full acknowledgement on the surveys and reports, provide an electronic copy of the data set when available, and send a copy of the report/article that is produced from the data.

Description: This 23-item scale assesses youth's ability to communicate by examining the frequency of use of the following skills that are needed to use effective communication practices.

1. Awareness of one's own styles of communication
2. Understanding and valuing different styles of communication
3. Practicing empathy
4. Adjusting one's own styles of communication to match others' styles.
(Communicative adaptability)
5. Communication of essential information
6. Interaction management

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.*

Internal Consistency: .79

Inter-rater reliability: No information provided

Test-Retest: No information provided

Validity: *The extent to which a measure captures what it is intended to measure.*

Content/Face Validity: No information provided

Criterion Validity: No information provided

Construct Validity: No information provided

CONSTRUCT: Communication

Scale Name: Communication Scale

Developers: Susan Barkman and Krisanna Machtmes, Purdue University

Instructions: Circle the number that best corresponds to how often you did what is described in the last 30 days. For example, if you circle 4 for a statement that means you always do what is described in the statement.

Scale:

0=Never, 1=Rarely, 2=Sometimes, 3=Often, 4=Always

Items:

1. I use my tone of voice to reinforce what I am trying to say.
2. I don't hear everything a person is saying, because I am thinking about what I want to say. (R)
3. When talking to someone, I try to maintain eye contact.
4. My body language reinforces what I am trying to say.
5. I interrupt other people to say what I want to say before I forget it.(R)
6. I recognize when two people are trying to say the same thing, but in different ways.
7. I try to watch other people's body language to help me understand what they are trying to say.
8. I recognize when people are using their hands to reinforce what they are saying.
9. I recognize when a person is listening to me, but not hearing what I am saying.
10. I use my own experiences to let my friends know that I understand what they are going through.
11. When I am listening to someone, I try to understand what they are feeling.
12. I try to see the other person's point of view.
13. I change the way I talk to someone based on my relationship with them (i.e., friend, parent, teacher, etc.)
14. I try to respond to what someone is saying, rather than just reacting to their tone of voice.
15. To help a person understand me, I change the way I speak based on how the other person is talking to me.
16. I find it easy to get my point across.
17. I use my hands to illustrate what I am trying to say.
18. I organize thoughts in my head before speaking.
19. I use body language to help reinforce what I want to say.
20. I make sure I understand what another person is saying before I respond.
21. I rephrase what another person said, to make sure that I understood them.
22. When someone gets mad, I change my tone of voice to help calm them down.
23. I find ways to redirect the conversation when people rattle on and on.

Scoring:

- Reverse scoring (4=never to 0=always) for items indicated with an (R).
- Sum all item ratings together. Range of scores= 0 to 92. ▪ Higher scores indicate greater communication skills.