

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

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

Survey development, items, and scoring are included in the literature reference Johnston, C. and Mash, E. J. (1989). A measure of parenting satisfaction and efficacy. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, 18 (2), 167-175. Searching the reference in <https://scholar.google.com/> provides access to the scale.

Additional information on validity studies are included in Gilmore, L. and Cuskelly, M. (2008). Factor structure of the parenting sense of competence scale using a normative sample. *Child: Care, Health, and Development*, 35 (1), 48-55.

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 costs associated with the use of this instrument.

Description:

- Gibaud-Wallson 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 consists 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 as 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.*

Internal Consistency: Gibaud-Wallson 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

Test-Retest: Gibaud-Wallson and Wanderman report six week test correlations ranging from .46 to .82.

Validity: *The extent to which 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.