

The Australian Scale Questionnaire

M.S. Garnett & A.J. Attwood

This is a questionnaire to help identify patterns of behaviour that may be causing concern.
Each question has a scale from 0 to 6 where 0 would be usual for any child of that age

Date: _____

Name: _____

Completed by: _____

A. SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL ABILITIES

- | | Rarely | | | | | | Frequently |
|---|--------|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. Does the child lack an understanding of how to play with other children?
For example, unaware of the unwritten rules of social play? | | | | | | | |
| 2. When free to play with other children, such as school lunch time, does the child avoid social contact with them?
For example, finds a secluded place or goes to the library. | | | | | | | |
| 3. Does the child appear unaware of social conventions or codes of conduct & make inappropriate actions & comments?
For example, making a personal comment to someone but the child seems unaware of how the comment could offend. | | | | | | | |
| 4. Does the child lack empathy, i.e. the intuitive understanding of another person's feelings?
For example, not realising an apology would help the other person feel better. | | | | | | | |
| 5. Does the child seem to expect other people to know their thoughts, experiences & opinions?
For example, not realising you could not know about something because you were not with the child at the time. | | | | | | | |

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. Does the child need an excessive amount of reassurance, especially if things are changed or go wrong? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7. Does the child lack subtlety in their expression of emotion?
For example, the child shows distress or affection out of proportion to the situation. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 8. Does the child lack precision in their expression of emotion?
For example, not understanding the levels of emotional expression appropriate for different people. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9. Is the child not interested in participating in competitive sports, games & activities? 0 means the child enjoys competitive sports. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 10. Is the child indifferent or peer pressure? 0 means the child follows the latest crazes.
For example, does not follow the latest craze in toys or clothes. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

B. COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. Does the child take a literal interpretation of comments?
For example, is confused by phrases such as “pull your Socks up”, “looks can kill” or “hop on the scales”. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 12. Does the child have an unusual tone of voice?
For example, the child seems to have a “foreign” accent or monotone that lacks emphasis on key words. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

13. When talking to the child does he or she appear uninterested in your side of the conversation? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
 For example, not asking about or commenting on your thoughts or opinions or the topic.
14. When in a conversation, does the child tend to used less eye contact than you would expect? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
15. Is the child's speech over-precise or pedantic? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
 For example, talks in a formal way or like a walking dictionary.
16. Does the child have problems repairing a conversation? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
 For example, when the child is confused, he or she does not ask for clarification but simply switches to a familiar topic, or takes ages to think of a reply.

C. COGNITIVE SKILLS

17. Does the child read books primarily for information, not seeming to be interested in fictional works? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
 For example, being an avid reader of encyclopaedias and science books but not keen on adventure stories.
18. Does the child have an exceptional long-term memory for events and facts? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
 For example, remembering the neighbour's car registration of several years ago or clearly recalling scenes that happened many years ago.

19. Does the child lack social imaginative play? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
For example, other children are not included in the child's
Imaginary games or the child is confused by the pretend games
of other children.

D. SPECIFIC INTERESTS

20. Is the child fascinated by a particular topic and avidly 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
collects information or statistics on that interest?
For example, the child becomes a walking encyclopaedia
of knowledge on vehicles, maps or league tables.

21. Does the child become unduly upset by changes in 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
routine or expectation?
For example, is distressed by going to school by a different route.

22. Does the child develop elaborate routines or rituals 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
that must be completed?
For example, lining up toys before going to bed.

E. MOVEMENT SKILLS

23. Does the child have poor motor coordination? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
For example, is not skilled at catching a ball.

24. Does the child have an odd gait when running? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

F. OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

For this section, tick whether the child has shown any of the following characteristics.

(a) Unusual fear or distress due to

Ordinary sound e.g. electrical appliances _____

Light touch on skin or scalp _____

Wearing particular items of clothing _____

Unexpected noises _____

Seeing certain objects _____

Noisy, crowded places. e.g. supermarkets _____

(b) A tendency to flap or rock when excited or distressed _____

(c) A lack of sensitivity to low levels of pain _____

(d) Late in acquiring speech _____

(e) Unusual facial grimaces or tics _____