

The Spence Children's Anxiety Scale (SCAS) – Parent version

Directions for use

Description

The scale consists of 38 anxiety items and one open-ended, non-scored item. It provides an overall measure of anxiety together with scores on six sub-scales each tapping a specific aspect of child anxiety.

Administration

The scale is completed by asking the parent to follow the instructions on the printed form. The parent is asked to rate on a four-point scale – 'never', 'sometimes', 'often' or 'always' – how often each of the items happens to their child. There is no set time period over which the judgement has to be made. The response is made by circling the appropriate word.

Scoring

The responses are scored:

Never	0
Sometimes	1
Often	2
Always	3

This yields a maximum possible score of 114.

The sub-scale scores are computed by adding the individual item scores on the set of items as follows:

Panic attack and agoraphobia	12	+19	+25	+27	+28	+30	+32	+33	+34
Separation anxiety	5	+8	+11	+14	+15	+38			
Physical injury fears	2	+16	+21	+23	+29				
Social phobia	6	+7	+9	+10	+26	+31			
Obsessive compulsive	13	+17	+24	+35	+36	+37			
Generalized anxiety disorder / overanxious disorder	1	+3	+4	+18	+20	+22			

The total score is the sum of all these six sub-scale scores.