

## THE BRIEF IMPAIRMENT SCALE (BIS)

### THE BRIEF IMPAIRMENT SCALE (BIS)

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The questions I am going to ask you now have to do with how \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child) \_\_\_\_\_ has been doing overall. Please answer them thinking only of the **last twelve months/past year** keeping in mind what one would expect of children of the same age and sex as \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child) \_\_\_\_\_.

**1) OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS/YEAR HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD GETTING ALONG WITH HIS/HER FATHER/STEP-FATHER/FOSTER FATHER? (score about father figure with whom he/she has most contact) (Read options):**

- 0 - no problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (no father figure)
- 9 - don't know

**2) HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD GETTING ALONG WITH HIS/HER MOTHER/STEP-MOTHER/FOSTER MOTHER? (score about mother figure with whom he/she has most contact) (Read options):**

- 0 - no problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (no mother figure)
- 9 - don't know

**3) HOW ABOUT PROBLEMS GETTING ALONG WITH HIS/HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS?**

- 0 - no problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (no brothers or sisters)
- 9 - don't know

**4) HOW ABOUT PROBLEMS GETTING INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES TOGETHER WITH THE REST OF THE FAMILY? (Read options):**

- 0 - no problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**5) OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR, HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD WITH HIS/HER TEACHERS AT SCHOOL? (If not in school and working) OR WITH HIS/HER SUPERIORS AT WORK?**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (has not worked or been in school during the past year)
- 9 - don't know

**6) HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD GETTING ALONG WITH OTHER ADULTS OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY? (Read options)**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**7) HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD MAKING FRIENDS?**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**8) HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD GETTING ALONG WITH THE FRIENDS THAT HE/SHE HAS? (Read options)**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem or has no friends
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**9) DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR, HAS HE/SHE OFTEN MISSED SCHOOL/WORK?**

**(Read options)**

- 0 - *never* misses school/work
- 1 - occasionally (*once a month or less*)
- 2 - many times (*2-4 times a month*)
- 3 - quite frequently (*more than 5 times per month*)
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable, not in school and not working during the last 12 months
- 9 - don't know

**IF Q. 9 coded 1, 2, or 3, ask**

**9A) WAS THIS BECAUSE HE/SHE WAS REALLY SICK?**

- 0- No    1- Yes (If "yes", recode q.9 as "0")

**10) DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR, HOW WELL HAS HE/SHE BEEN DOING IN HIS/HER SCHOOL WORK? (Read options)**

**(If another grading system is used, code closest equivalent)**

- 0 -better than average (mostly "B"'s or outstanding: mostly A's, some B's)
- 1 - just average: "C" work
- 2 - somewhat below average (mostly "C"'s and "D"'s)
- 3 - markedly below average (mostly "D"'s and "F"'s)
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (not in school during the past year)
- 9 - don't know

**If Q. 10 scored 8, ask**

**10A. HAS HE/SHE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL DURING THE LAST YEAR?**

- 0- No    3 - Yes    7 - refused    9 - don't know
- (If "Yes", code "3" for q. 10)

**11) HAS HE/SHE BEEN SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR?**

- 0 - No
- 3 - Yes
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (has not been in school over the past year)
- 9 - don't know

**12) HAS HE/SHE BEEN EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL OR ACTUALLY FIRED FROM A JOB DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR?**

- 0 - No
- 3 - Yes
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (has not been in school over the past year)
- 9 - don't know

**13) IN GENERAL, HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAVE HAD GETTING HIS/HER SCHOOLWORK/WORK DONE ON TIME? (Read options)**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (not in school or working over the past year)
- 9 - don't know

**14) DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR, HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD DOING WHAT HE/SHE IS EXPECTED TO DO AT HOME? (Read options)**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**15) HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM HAS HE/SHE HAD BEING RESPONSIBLE AT SCHOOL/ WORK OR IN JOBS HE/SHE TOOK ON OUTSIDE OF HIS HOME?**

**(Read options)**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a marked problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable (not worked or in school during past year)
- 9 - don't know

**16) IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR, HOW MANY TIMES WERE YOU ASKED TO COME TO HIS/HER SCHOOL TO DISCUSS SOME PROBLEM THAT HE/SHE HAS HAD?**

- 0 - Never
- 1 - Once
- 3 - more than once
- 7 - refused
- 8 - Not applicable, not in school
- 9 - don't know

**17) TO WHAT EXTENT DOES HE/SHE GET INVOLVED IN SPORTS? (Read options)**

- 0 - frequently or member of a team
- 1 - some involvement, but not steady
- 2 - very rarely involved
- 3 - not involved at all
- 7 - refused
- 8 - not applicable, no opportunities for participation in sports
- 9 - don't know

**18) OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS TO WHAT EXTENT DID HE/SHE GET INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN SPORTS? (Read options)**

- 0 - frequently involved in other activities
- 1 - only occasionally
- 2 - rarely got involved or dropped out easily
- 3 - never got involved in other activities
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**19) TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD YOU SAY HE/SHE IS A PERSON WHO HAS MANY INTERESTS? AGAIN THINK SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR. WOULD YOU SAY HE/SHE (Read options)**

- 0 - has many and varied interests
- 1 - has some interests
- 2 - few things interest him/her
- 3 - has no interests, is generally bored
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**20) COMPARED TO OTHER KIDS OF THE SAME AGE, HOW NEAT IS HIS/HER PHYSICAL APPEARANCE MOST OF THE TIME? REMEMBER THAT WE ARE TALKING OF HOW IT'S BEEN DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS/PAST YEAR. WOULD YOU SAY HE/SHE IS (Read options):**

- 0 - like most kids his/her age
- 1 - a bit sloppier than most kids his/her age
- 2 - considerably more sloppy or peculiar than most
- 3 - extremely sloppy or bizarre compared to others
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**21) COMPARED TO OTHERS HIS/HER AGE, HOW WELL DOES HE/SHE TAKE CARE OF HIS/HER HEALTH? HE/SHE (Read options):**

- 0 - takes good care of him/herself
- 1 - is somewhat careless about his/her health
- 2 - is quite careless about his/her health
- 3 - is extremely careless about his/her health
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**22) HOW SAFETY CONSCIOUS IS HE/SHE? (Read options):**

- 0 - very careful, attentive to safety rules
- 1 - somewhat careless
- 2 - quite careless
- 3 - extremely careless
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

**23) DOES HE/SHE SEEM TO HAVE A PROBLEM HAVING FUN AND ENJOYING LIFE? AGAIN, THINK OF HOW IT'S BEEN DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS. WOULD YOU SAY HE/SHE HAS HAD**

**(Read options):**

- 0 - No problem
- 1 - some problem
- 2 - a considerable problem
- 3 - a serious problem
- 7 - refused
- 9 - don't know

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Interpersonal Subscale: Items 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

School/work Subscale: Items 9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16

Self Subscale: Items 17,18,19,20,21,22,23

### SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

1) Each valid item must have been scored 0, 1, 2, or 3.  
Refusals (7), Not applicables (8), or Don't knows (9) are not summed in the score.. (For the scale a subscale to be valid, at least half of the items have to have valid scores.)

2) For the total scale or for each subscale, add the sum of the valid items, divide by the number of valid items, and multiply times the number of items on the scale or subscale.

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