

Scoring the Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire

Emotional Problems Scale.	Not True	A Bit True	Very True
Q3: I get a lot of headaches.	0	1	2
Q8: I worry a lot.	0	1	2
Q13: I am often unhappy.	0	1	2
Q16: Nervous in new situations.	0	1	2
Q24: I have many fears.	0	1	2
Conduct Problems Scale.	Not True	A Bit True	Very True
Q5: I often get angry.	0	1	2
Q7: I usually do as I am told.	2	1	0
Q12: I fight a lot.	0	1	2
Q18: other people say I lie or cheat.	0	1	2
Q22: I take things that are not mine.	0	1	2
Hyperactivity Problems Scale	Not True	A Bit True	Very True
Q2: I cannot stay still for long.	0	1	2
Q10: I fidget a lot.	0	1	2
Q15: I am easily distracted.	0	1	2
Q21: I think before I act.	2	1	0
Q25: I finish the work I am doing.	2	1	0
Peer Problems Scale	Not True	A Bit True	Very True
Q6: I am usually on my own	0	1	2
Q11: have at least one good friend.	2	1	0
Q14: Other children / students like me.	2	1	0
Q19: I get bullied by other children.	0	1	2
Q23: I get on better with adults	0	1	2
Prosocial Problems Scale	Not True	A Bit True	Very True
Q1: I am nice to people	0	1	2
Q4: I share things with other people.	0	1	2
Q9: I help people when are hurt or upset.	0	1	2
Q17: I am kind to younger children.	0	1	2
Q20: I help other people	0	1	2

Total difficulties score

Add up all the scores from all the scales except the prosocial scale. The resultant score ranges from 0 to 40.

Cut-points scores

Although SDQ scores can be used as continuous variables, it is sometimes convenient to categorise scores. The initial bandings presented for the SDQ scores were 'normal', 'borderline' and 'abnormal'. These bandings were defined based on a population-based UK survey, attempting to choose cutpoints such that 80% of children scored 'normal', 10% 'borderline' and 10% 'abnormal'.

Child completed scores	Normal	Borderline	Abnormal
Total Difficulties Score	0-15	16-19	20-40
Emotional Problems Score	0-5	6	7-10
Conduct Problems Score	0-3	4	5-10
Hyperactivity Score	0-5	6	7-10
Peer Problems Score	0-3	4-5	6-10
Prosocial Score	6-10	5	0-4