

Early Childhood Measurement and Evaluation Tool Review

Early Childhood Measurement and Evaluation (ECME), a portfolio within CUP, produces *Early Childhood Measurement Tool Reviews* as a resource for those who conduct screening, assessment, and evaluation. To learn more about ECME and CUP, provide feedback, or to access additional reviews, visit our website at www.cup.ualberta.ca or email us at cup@ualberta.ca

Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ: SE)

A Parent-Completed, Child-Monitoring System for Social Emotional Behaviors

Measurement Areas:

The ASQ: SE is designed to provide information on how a child is developing in seven behavioral areas:

- Self-regulation
- Compliance
- Communication
- Adaptive Functioning
- Autonomy
- Affect
- Interaction with others

The ASQ: SE ranges from 6-60 months, with questionnaires for ages (in months): 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 48, and 60.

Purpose:

The ASQ: SE can be used for two purposes:

- As a first-level screening tool to identify infants and children that may require further social/emotional behavioral assessment;
- As a monitoring tool to gauge the development of children who are at-risk for social/emotional developmental problems.

The publisher recommends that the ASQ:SE be used in conjunction with a developmental screen that provides information on other areas of children's development including communication, motor, and cognitive functioning.

The ASQ: SE is distributed by teachers, doctors, and other professionals for parents to complete. The questionnaire is then returned to the professional, who scores it and provides feedback.

Length and Structure:

The ASQ: SE takes 10-15 minutes to complete, and 2-3 minutes to score.

The ASQ: SE contains a series of 8 parent-completed questionnaires with 22-36 developmental items in each questionnaire. A parent responds “most of the time,” “sometimes,” and “never or rarely” to each of the items for the questionnaire appropriate to the child’s age, these responses are then converted to point values and added together. The total score is then compared to established screening cut-offs: if a score falls above a set cut-off a child is identified as requiring further diagnostic assessment. The ASQ:SE questionnaires contain a section where parents can record general concerns/issues that are not captured in the questionnaires

Materials:

The ASQ: SE starter kit with English questionnaires is available for USD \$225 which includes the 8 photocopiable print masters of the questionnaires and scoring sheets, a CD-ROM with printable PDF questionnaires, and the ASQ: SE User's Guide. The ASQ: SE forms can be photocopied therefore there are no additional fees for questionnaires and scoring sheets.

Accessibility:

The ASQ: SE is available in English and Spanish. Other language versions are under development.

Administration, Scoring, and Interpretation:

The ASQ: SE is easy to administer, and appropriate for parent-completion. The test is easy to score, and moderately easy to interpret. Caregivers fill out the questionnaires and professionals convert responses to color-coded scoring sheets. Training for scoring and interpretation is available for professionals and paraprofessionals through the publisher by video and in-person workshops.

Documentation:

The User’s Guide, which is included in the purchase of the ASQ: SE system, outlines specific procedures for administration, scoring, and interpretation, as well as provides information on reliability and validity.

Norming Sample:

The norming sample contained a total of 3,014 children aged 6-60 months. When compared with Census figures from the United States (2000), the normative sample has a higher percentage of well-educated mothers and low-income families. Additionally, the norming sample under represents Caucasians and over represents individuals of mixed ethnicity.

Reliability:

Internal consistency reliability (Cronbach’s alpha): the alphas for the questionnaires were .82 overall, 6-month (.69), 12-month (.67), 18-month (.81), 24-month (.80), 30-month (.88), 36-month (.89), 48-month (.91), and 60-month (.91).

Test-retest reliability: the percent agreement between scores by the same rater on two occasions is 94 percent with one to three weeks between tests. No information is presently provided on inter-rater reliability.

Validity:

Concurrent validity: percentage agreement between the ASQ: SE, and the Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL) and Vineland Social-Emotional Early Childhood Scale (SEEC) ranged from 81% to 95%, with an overall agreement of 93%.

Sensitivity: the ability of the ASQ: SE to identify those children with social-emotional difficulties ranged from 71% to 85%, with 78% overall sensitivity.

Specificity: the ability of the ASQ: SE to correctly identify those children without social-emotional delays ranged from 90% to 98%, with 95% overall specificity.

Publication Information:

Diane Bricker and Jane Squires created the ASQ: SE, with assistance from Linda Mounts, LaWanda Potter, Robert Nickel, Elizabeth Twombly, and Jane Farrell. This review is based on the 2nd Edition, published in 1999 by the Brookes Publishing Company.

Materials Used for Tool Review:

Publisher's website: www.brookespublishing.com/asqse

Squires, J., Bricker, D., & Twombly, E. (2002). *Ages And Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE), A Parent-Completed, Child-Monitoring System For Social-Emotional Behaviors*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

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