School attendance difficulties assessment

PARENTS AND CARERS

Often children and young people have different reasons for not attending school.

This form can help explore the reasons why coming to school is difficult for your child enabling us all to better understanding some of the causes and helping us plan better. The responses to this assessment is only useful within wider assessment that takes into account your child’s context (e.g. interest in school subjects, friendships, learning).

For each question, pick one number that describes your child best for the last few days. Please circle or highlight the number.

Name: Date:

Please circle the answer that best fits the following questions:

1. How often does your child have bad feelings about going to school because they are afraid of something related to school (for example, tests, school bus, teacher, fire alarm)?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child stay away from school because it is hard for them to speak with the other people at school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child feel they would rather be with you or your partner than go to school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. When your child is not in school during the week (Monday to Friday) how often do they leave the house and do something fun?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child stay away from school because they will feel sad or depressed if they go?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child stay away from school because they feel embarrassed in front of other people at school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child think about you, your partner or your family when in school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. When your child is not in school during the week (Monday to Friday), how often do they talk to or see other people (other than immediate family)?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child feel worse at school (for example scared, nervous or sad) compared to how they feel at home with friends?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child stay away from school because they do not have many friends there?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How much would your child rather be with you or your family than go to school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. When your child is not in school during the week (Monday to Friday), how much do they enjoy doing different things (for example being with friends, going places)?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child have bad feelings about school (for example, scared, nervous, or sad) when they think about school on a Saturday and Sunday?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child stay away from certain places in school (e.g. hallways, places where certain groups of people are) where they would have to talk to someone?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How much would your child rather be taught by you or your partner at home than by their teacher at school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child miss school because they want to have fun outside of school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. If your child had less bad feelings (for example, scared, nervous, sad) about school, would it be easier for them to go to school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. If it were easier for your child to make new friends would it be easier for them to go to school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. Would it be easier to go to school if you or your partner went with them?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. Would it be easier for your child to go to school if they could do more things they like to do after school hours (for example being with friends)?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How much more does your child have bad feelings about school (for example, scared, nervous or sad) compared to other people their age?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. How often does your child stay away from school compared to other people their age?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. Would your child like to be at home with you or your partner more than other people their age would?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

1. Would your child rather be doing fun things outside of school more than most people their age?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | Seldom | Sometimes | Half the Time | Usually | Almost Always | Always |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Scoring

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Function 1 | Function 2 | Function 3 | Function 4 |
|  | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|  | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. |
|  | 9. | 10. | 11. | 12. |
|  | 13. | 14. | 15. | 16. |
|  | 17. | 18. | 19. | . |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 21. |  | 22. |  | 23. |  | 24. |  |
| Total Score | = |  | = |  | = |  | = |  |
| Mean Score (TS/6) | = |  | = |  | = |  | = |  |
| Relative Ranking | = |  | = |  | = |  | = |  |

Functions:

* 1. To avoid school-related situations/ environment that provoke negative affectivity (symptoms of dread, anxiety, depression, and somatic complaints)
  2. To escape aversive social and or evaluative situations at school
  3. To receive or pursue attention from significant others outside of school
  4. To pursue tangible rewards outside of school

This School Attendance Difficulties Assessments for Children for Parents and Carers, is adapted from East Renfrewshire Educational Psychology Service and the School Refusal Assessment Scale by Kearney & Albano, with the authors’ permission, to reflect changing terminology in this subject area.