



Growing Up in Ireland

-the National Longitudinal Study of Children

The Economic and Social Research Institute and Trinity College, Dublin

Child Cohort Presentation 04:

Standard Measures and Derived Variables



Standard Measures Used in the Study

1. Achievement tests
2. Emotional and behavioural
3. Temperament
4. Child's self-concept
5. Relationship quality
6. Parental depression



Standard measures used in the Study – Achievement tests

Drumcondra vocabulary and maths tests.

Level 2, 3 or 4 completed depending on class level.

Skills measured	Maths Level 2	Maths Level 3	Maths Level 4
Applying & Problem Solving	✓	✓	✓
Reasoning	✓	✓	✓
Implementing	✓	✓	✓
Understanding & Recalling	✓	✓	✓
Integrating & Connecting		✓	✓



Standard measures used in the Study – Emotional and Behavioural Measure

The SDQ (Goodman, 1997) was used in Growing Up in Ireland. It has 5 subscales:

- Conduct problems
- Emotional problems
- Peer problems
- Hyperactivity
- Pro-social behaviour



Standard measures used in the Study – Temperament

Measured using EAS (Buss and Plomin)

Temperament scale. It has 4 subscales:

- Shyness
- Emotionality
- Activity
- Sociability



Standard measures used in the Study – Self-Concept

Measured using the Piers-Harris self-concept measure. 6 dimensions:

- Behaviour
- Intellectual and school status
- Physical appearance
- Freedom from anxiety
- Popularity
- Happiness and satisfaction



Standard measures used in the Study – Relationships

Relationship quality – Child-Parent and
Parental relationship

- Pianta assessed the relationship between both parents and the Study Child – conflict, closeness and dependency
- Dyadic Adjustment Scale (short version) assessed the relationship between parents



Standard measures used in the Study – Parental Depression

CES-D (8-item) was used to assess the depression status for both parents. It is a short screener. The authors provide a cut-off point of ≥ 7 but caution advised.



Key derived variables in the data file (1)

Household Type (HHtype)

- One parent with 1 or 2 children
 - One parent with 3 or more children
 - Two parents with 1 or 2 children
 - Two parents with 3 or more children
-
- **Equivalised income (Equivinc; EIncQuin; EIncDec)**
 - Equivalised income
 - Quintiles
 - Deciles



Key derived variables in the data file (2)

Region (Region)

- Urban
- Rural

Mother's highest level of education (MML37)

- None or primary
- Lower secondary
- Hi sec/ Tech voc/ Uppsec + tech/voc
- Non-degree
- Primary
- Postgrad



Key derived variables in the data file (3)

Household class (Hsdclass)

- Professional workers
- Managerial and technical
- Non-manual
- Skilled manual
- Semi-skilled
- Unskilled
- All others gainfully employed and unknown
- Validly no social class

Household Class (xhsdclass)

- Professional /Managers
- Other non-manual/ skilled manual
- Semi/ unskilled manual
- Validly no social class