

A-19 Scale For Children Who Stutter

Susan Andre and Barry Guitar
University of Vermont

Establish rapport with the child and make sure that he/she is physically comfortable before beginning administration. Explain the task to the child and make sure he/she understands what is required. Some simple directions might be used:

"I am going to ask you some questions. Listen carefully and then tell me what you think; Yes or No. There is no right or wrong answer. I just want to know what you think."

To begin the scale, ask the questions in a natural manner. Do not urge the child to respond before he/she is ready, and repeat the question if the child did not hear it or you feel that he/she did not understand it. Do not reword the question unless you feel it is absolutely necessary, and then write the question you asked under that item.

Circle the answer that corresponds with the child's response. Be accepting of the child's response because there is no right or wrong answer. If all the child will say is "I don't know", even after prompting, record that response next to the question.

For the younger children (kindergarten and first grade), it might be necessary to give a few simple examples to ensure comprehension of the required task:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----|
| a. Are you a boy? | YES | NO |
| b. Do you have black hair? | YES | NO |

Similar, obvious questions may be inserted, if necessary, to reassure the examiner that the child is actively cooperating at all times. Adequately praise the child for listening and assure him/her that a good job is being done.

It is important to be familiar with the questions so that they can be read in a natural manner.

The child is given one point for answers that match those given below. The higher a child's score, the more probable it is that he/she has developed negative attitudes toward communication. In our study, the mean score of the K through 4th stutterers (N=28) was 9.07 (S.D. = 2.44), and for the 28 matched controls, it was 8.17 (S.D.=1.80).

Score one point for each answer that matches these:

- | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | YES | 10. | NO |
| 2. | YES | 11. | NO |
| 3. | NO | 12. | NO |
| 4. | NO | 13. | YES |
| 5. | NO | 14. | YES |
| 6. | YES | 15. | YES |
| 7. | NO | 16. | NO |
| 8. | YES | 17. | NO |
| 9. | YES | 18. | YES |
| | | 19. | YES |

(copied with permission from Barry Guitar, Ph.D., 1996).