

This data file contains the public-use item-level data for the Self Description Questionnaire (SDQ) used in the third- and fifth-grade student questionnaires of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K). The full SDQ survey was not administered in eighth grade; however, some items from the SDQ were included in the eighth-grade student questionnaire (website link: <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/pdf/eighthgrade/student.pdf>). Data for the eighth-grade items are included on the *ECLS-K Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade Full Sample Public-Use Data File* (NCES 2009-005) and are not repeated on this supplementary data file.

The data file also contains the child identification number (CHILDDID). To merge this information with the data on the main data file, researchers should merge by this identification number.

This document contains the SDQ survey as fielded to students, followed by information on how the subscales were constructed from the 42 SDQ items.

The SDQ was fielded:

- Spring third grade [variables on the file begin with C5]
- Spring fifth grade [variables on the file begin with C6]

The SDQ response scale included four points ranging from “1 = not at all true” to “4 = very true.”

Perceived Interest/ Competence in Reading

This subscale is composed of the following items:

4. I get good grades in reading
10. I like reading
13. Work in reading is easy for me
18. I am interested in reading
21. I cannot wait to read each day
33. I am good at reading
35. I like reading long chapter books
39. I enjoy doing work in reading

The subscale was created only if there were valid data on at least 5 of the 8 items. The subscale score is computed as the mean of the items comprising the score.

Perceived Interest/ Competence in Math

This subscale is composed of the following items:

6. Work in math is easy for me
12. I cannot wait to do math each day
16. I get good grades in math
22. I am interested in math
26. I can do very difficult problems in math
30. I like math
36. I enjoy doing work in math
41. I am good at math

The subscale was created only if there were valid data on at least 5 of the 8 items. The subscale score is computed as the mean of the items comprising the score.

Perceived Interest/ Competence in All School Subjects

This subscale is composed of the following items:

2. I am good at all school subjects
8. I enjoy work in all school subjects
15. Work in all school subjects is easy for me
28. I like all school subjects
38. I look forward to all school subjects
42. I get good grades in all school subjects

The subscale was created only if there were valid data on at least 4 of the 6 items. The subscale score is computed as the mean of the items comprising the score.

Perceived Interest/ Competence in Peer Relations

This subscale is composed of the following items:

1. I have lots of friends
11. I make friends easily
19. I get along with kids easily
24. I am easy to like
27. Other kids want me to be their friend
31. I have more friends than most other kids

The subscale was created only if there were valid data on at least 4 of the 6 items. The subscale score is computed as the mean of the items comprising the score.

Externalizing Problem Behaviors

This subscale is composed of the following items:

5. I often argue with other kids
9. It's hard for me to pay attention
17. I get distracted easily
23. It's hard for me to finish my school work
34. I get in trouble for talking and disturbing others
37. I get in trouble for fighting with other kids

The subscale was created only if there were valid data on at least 4 of the 6 items. The subscale score is computed as the mean of the items comprising the score.

Internalizing Problem Behaviors

This subscale is composed of the following items:

3. I feel angry when I have trouble learning
7. I worry about taking tests
14. I often feel lonely
20. I feel sad a lot of the time
25. I worry about doing well in school
29. I worry about finishing my work
32. I worry about having someone to play with at school
40. I feel ashamed when I make mistakes at school

The subscale was created only if there were valid data on at least 6 of the 8 items. The subscale score is computed as the mean of the items comprising the score.