

Index of Empathy for Children and Adolescents

Bryant, B. (1982). An Index of Empathy for Children and Adolescents, *Child Development*, 53, 413-425. Items in *italics* score negatively.

1. It makes me sad to see a girl who can't find anyone to play with.
2. *People who kiss and hug in public are silly.*
3. *Boys who cry because they are happy are silly.*
4. I really like to watch people open presents, even when I don't get a present myself.
5. Seeing a boy who is crying makes me feel like crying.
6. I get upset when I see a girl being hurt.
7. Even when I don't know why someone is laughing, I laugh too.
8. Sometimes I cry when I watch TV.
9. *Girls who cry because they are happy are silly.*
10. *It's hard for me to see why someone else gets upset.*
11. I get upset when I see an animal being hurt.
12. It makes me sad to see a boy who can't find anyone to play with.
13. Some songs make me so sad I feel like crying.
14. I get upset when I see a boy being hurt.
15. *Grown-ups sometimes cry even when they have nothing to be sad about.*
16. *It's silly to treat dogs and cats as though they have feelings like people.*
17. *I get mad when I see a classmate pretending to need help from the teacher all the time.*
18. *Kids who have no friends probably don't want any.*
19. Seeing a girl who is crying makes me feel like crying.
20. *I think it is funny that some people cry during a sad movie or while reading a sad book.*
21. *I am able to eat all my cookies even when I see someone looking at me wanting one.*
22. *I don't feel upset when I see a classmate being punished by a teacher for not obeying school rules.*

Scoring

For school-age children, Bryant scored items dichotomously (1 or 0 for yes or no, true or false). For seventh grade or older, she used the same 9-point scoring system as Merabian and Epstein (1972), namely -4 (not at all like me) to +4 (very much like me). Negative items are reverse scored and items summed to obtain a scale score.

I would suggest that scale scores be derived by averaging, as such scores can be interpreted in terms of the response categories. In addition, averaged scores have less (error) variance than summed scores.

Regardless of the response scale used for the items, or how scale scores are calculated, it is very likely that Bryant's scale is multi-dimensional (and therefore uninterpretable). If you use it, you should do a factor analysis to confirm that all items fall on a single factor.