

Parenting Sense of Competence Scale

(Gibaud-Wallston & Wandersman, 1978)

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. The problems of taking care of a child are easy to solve once you know how your actions affect your child, an understanding I have acquired.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Even though being a parent could be rewarding, I am frustrated now while my child is at his / her present age.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. I go to bed the same way I wake up in the morning, feeling I have not accomplished a whole lot.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. I do not know why it is, but sometimes when I'm supposed to be in control, I feel more like the one being manipulated.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. My mother was better prepared to be a good mother than I am.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. I would make a fine model for a new mother to follow in order to learn what she would need to know in order to be a good parent.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Being a parent is manageable, and any problems are easily solved.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. A difficult problem in being a parent is not knowing whether you're doing a good job or a bad one.	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Sometimes I feel like I'm not getting anything done.	1	2	3	4	5	
10. I meet by own personal expectations for expertise in caring for my child.	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. If anyone can find the answer to what is troubling my child, I am the one.	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. My talents and interests are in other areas, not being a parent.	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. Considering how long I've been a mother, I feel thoroughly familiar with this role.	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. If being a mother of a child were only more interesting, I would be motivated to do a better job as a parent.	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. I honestly believe I have all the skills necessary to be a good mother to my child.	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. Being a parent makes me tense and anxious.	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Being a good mother is a reward in itself.	1	2	3	4	5	6

Parent Sense of Competency Scale (PSOC)

The Parenting Sense of Competency Scale (PSOC) was developed by Gibaud-Wallston as part of her PhD dissertation and presented at the American Psychological Association by Gibaud-Wallston and Wandersman in 1978. The PSOC is a 17 item scale, with 2 subscales. Each item is rated on a 6 point Likert scale anchored by 1 = “Strongly Disagree” and 6 = “Strongly Agree”. Nine (9) items (#s 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 16) on the PSOC are reverse coded. The version of the scale used for Young Moms Connect (YMC) is essentially the same as the original version with the exception of the words “baby” and “infant” in the first version changed to “child” in the current version to permit scale use with parents of children who are older than infants.

Nine items on the PSOC are reverse coded, this is important for accurate scoring. Reverse coded means that a high score on the individual item is not indicative of having a sense of competency; essentially, the item is worded negatively.

Scoring Instructions:

To aid scoring and lessen the potential for error, I suggest writing the number for each item in the right hand margin. For items 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 17 simply write the number the participant circled or otherwise indicated as their choice. For items 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 16 substitute the following numbers and write in right hand margin for totaling:

If participant chose: 6 write 1, 5 write 2, 4 write 3, 3 write 4, 2 write 5, 1 write 6. Total all numbers you have written in the right hand margin; this is participants PSOC score. A higher score indicates a higher parenting sense of competency.