Executive Skills Questionnaire for Children Preschool/Kindergarten Version

Read each item below and then rate that item based on how well it describes your child. Then add the three scores in each section. Find the three highest and three lowest scores.

	Strongly agree 5	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Score
	Acts appropriately in (e.g., avoiding hot stor	/e).		langer is obvid	DUS	
	Can share toys withou Can wait for a short p	0		ructed by an a	adult.	
					Total score:	
4.	Runs simple errands (asked).	e.g., gets sl	noes from be	droom when		
	Remembers instructio					
6.	Follows two steps of a	a routine w	vith only one p	prompt per ste	ep.	
					Total score:	
7.	Can recover fairly quid plans.	kly from a	disappointm	ent or change	in	
8.	Is able to use nonphys away.	ical solutio	ns when anot	ther child take	s toy	
9.	Can play in a group w	ithout beco	oming overly	excited.		
					Total score:	
10.	Is able to adjust to ch warning).	ange in pla	ns or routines	s (may need		
	Recovers quickly when Is willing to share toys			as expected.		
					Total score:	
14.	Can complete a 5-mir Can sit through presc Can listen to one to th	hool "circle	time" (15–20	-		
17.	Will follow an adult di Will stop playing to fo Is able to start getting reminder.	ollow an ad	ult instruction	n when directe	Total score:	

Total score: _____

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Exe	cutive Skills Questionnaire for Chi	ldren: Pres	school/Kindergarten Version	(page 2	of 2)	
						Score
	Can finish one task or ad Is able to follow a brief r else (with model or dem	outine o			ne	
21.	Can complete a simple o		ect with more than or	ne step).	
					Total score:	
	Hangs up coat in approp Puts toys in proper locat	-	-	eminde	er).	H
	Clears off place setting			emind	er).	
					Total score:	
25.	Can complete daily rout reminders).	ines wit	hout dawdling (with s	some d	cues/	
26.	Can speed up and finish reason to do so.	someth	ning more quickly whe	n give	n a	
27.	Can finish a small chore turning on TV).	within t	time limits (e.g., make	e bed b	oefore	
					Total score:	
	Will direct other children					
	Will seek assistance in co Will try more than one s					H
50.	will cry more chair one s		to get to a simple go	ui.	Total score:	
31.	Can make minor adjustr	nent in	construction project o	or puz:		
22	when first attempt fails			-		
	Can find novel (but simp Makes suggestions to ar					
					Total score:	
Itor	ns Executive skill I	toms F	KEY xecutive skill I	toms	Executive skill	
1-3					Time management	
4- 7-					Goal-directed persi Metacognition	istence
10-			rganization			
`	our child's executive skill (highest scores)		hs Your child's		utive skill weakne st scores)	SSES

Executive Skills Questionnaire for Children Lower Elementary Version (Grades 1-3)

Read each item below and then rate that item based on how well it describes your child. Then add the three scores in each section. Find the three highest and three lowest scores.



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Exe	cuti	ve Skills Questionnaire for C	hildren: l	.ower Elemen	tary Version a	page 2 of 2)		
19.	С	an carry out a two- t	o three	e-step proi	ect of own	design (é.g.,	Score
20.	ar Ci Ci	ts and crafts, constr an figure out how to an carry out two- to pport (e.g., book rep	uction) earn/s three-s	ave money	/ for an ine	xpensive	toy. vith	
22.	Pι	uts coat, winter gear,	sports	s equipmer	nt in proper	- locatior	Total score: ns (may	
	Н	eed reminder). as specific places in b oesn't lose permission						
25	C	an complete a short [.]	task wi	thin time	limits set h	y an adu	Total score:	
	С	an build in appropriat	te amo	unt of tim	e to comple	-		
27.	С	efore a deadline (may an complete a mornin				(may ne	eed	
	pr	actice).					Total score:	
28.		/ill stick with challeng uilding difficult LEGO			ve desired g	goal (e.g	•1	
	W	/ill come back to a ta	sk late	r if interru	•			
30.	VV	'ill work on a desired	project	tor sever	al hours or	over sev	eral days. Total score:	
31.		an adjust behavior in	respor	nse to feed	lback from	parent o		
32.		acher. an watch what happ	ens to	others and	d change be	ehavior		
33.		cordingly. an verbalize more the	an one	solution to	o a problem	n and mo	ake the	
		est choice.			·		Total score:	
		For and the shift		KE	-		En en en el	
1-3 4- 7-9	3 6 9	Executive skill Response inhibition Working memory Emotional control Flexibility	Items 13–15 16–18 19–21 22–24	Executive s Sustained Task initiat Planning/p Organizati	attention tion prioritizing	ltems 25–27 28–30 31–33	Executive skill Time management Goal-directed pers Metacognition	
	Υοι	ur child's executive ski (highest score		igths	Your chi		utive skill weakne est scores)	esses

Executive Skills Questionnaire for Children Upper Elementary Version (Grades 4–5)

Read each item below and then rate that item based on how well it describes your child. Then add the three scores in each section. Find the three highest and three lowest scores.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
	5	4	3	2		Score
1.	Handles conflict with	peers with	out getting in	to physical fig	ght	
2.	(may lose temper). Follows home or scho	ol rules in t	he absence o	f an adult's		
3.	immediate presence. Can calm down or de-		,	,		
	charged situation whe	en prompte	a by an adult	•	Total score:	
	Remembers to follow				reminders.	
	Brings books, papers,	•			11.1 × 1	
0.	Keeps track of changi after school).	ng aaliy sc	neaule (e.g., a	ITTERENT OCTIV	TIES	
					Total score:	
	Doesn't overreact to l Can accept not gettir			-		
	in a group.	•				
9.	Acts with restraint in	response t	o teasing.			
10					Total score:	
	Doesn't "get stuck" or Can "shift gears" whe					
	circumstances.	·	C			
12.	Can do "open-ended"	homework	assignments	(may need as	ssistance).	
					Total score:	
	Can spend 30–60 mir					
	Can complete a chore Is able to attend spor					\square
10.	minutes.					
1/					Total score:	
10.	Is able to follow a three practiced.	ee- to four	-step routine '	that has been	1	
	Can complete three to		•			
18.	Can follow established to get started).	d homewoi	rk schedule (m	nay need remi	inder	
	to get started).				Total score:	

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Exe	cuti	ive Skills Questionnaire for Cl	hildren: l	Jpper Elementary \	lersion (pa	ige 2 of 2)		
20.	C C	an make plans to do s an figure out how to an carry out long-terr roken down by someo	earn/s n proje	ave money for ects for schoo	r a more	expens	sive purchase.	
23.	lo Bi ne	an put belongings in c cations in house. rings in toys from out eed reminder). eeps track of homewo	doors	after use or a	t end of	day (m	ay	
 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 	as St Is Is (s C Is C Is M C	an complete daily rou ssistance. an adjust homework s carting early if there's able to start long-ter me crunch (may need an save allowance for able to follow a prace port, instrument); mo an maintain a hobby of able to anticipate in a take adjustments acco an articulate several s njoys the problem-solv	schedu an eve m pro- help v - 3–4 w tice scl ay need over se over se advand solutio	le to allow for ening Scout m jects enough i vith this). veeks to make hedule to get d reminders. everal months ce the result o y (e.g., to avoi ns to problem	f a cours d getting d getting	ctivities ce to re ed purch t a desi se of ac g in tro plain th	s (e.g., educe Total score: nase. ired skill Total score: ction and uble).	
		deo games.	5				Total score:	
1– 4– 7– 10–	3 6 9 ·12	Executive skill Response inhibition Working memory Emotional control Flexibility ur child's executive ski (highest scores	13–15 16–18 19–21 22–24 Il stren		tizing	25-27 28-30 31-33	5	istence

Executive Skills Questionnaire for Children Middle School Version (Grades 6-8)

Read each item below and then rate that item based on how well it describes your child. Then add the three scores in each section. Find the three highest and three lowest scores.

	Strongly agree 5	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Score
2.	Is able to walk away Can say no to a fun c Resists saying hurtfu	activity if o	ther plans hav	ve already be	-	
4.	Able to keep track of teachers.	assignmen	ts and classro	oom rules of r	Total score: nultiple	
	Remembers events o (e.g., special instructi Remembers multiste	ons for field	d trips, extrac	urricular activ	/ities).	
7.	Is able to "read" reac Can accept not getti	tions from	friends and a	djust behavio	Total score: r accordingly.	
9.	in a group. Can be appropriately inviting someone to c				o, Total score:	
11.	Is able to adjust to di Is willing to adjust in Is willing to adjust to allowing someone els	a group site or accept o	uation when a younger sibl	a peer is beha ing's agenda	l routines. ving inflexibly.	
					Total score:	
	Can spend 60–90 mi Can tolerate family g or getting in trouble.			-		
15.	Can complete chores	that take (up to 2 hours	(may need br	eaks).	
					Total score:	
16.	Can make and follow procrastination.	nightly ho	mework scheo	dule without u	Indue	
17.	Can start chores at a may need written rer		n time (e.g., ri	ght after sch	ool;	
18.	Can set aside fun act		he/she remer	mbers a prom	ised obligation.	
					Total score: (cor	tinued)

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Executi	ive Skills Questionnaire for	Children: I	Niddle School Version	(page 2 of 2)		
10 C	an do research on th	o Interr	at aither for sch	ool or to lea	rn.	Sco
sc 0. C 21. C	omething of interest an make plans for ex an carry out a long-t upport from adults.	ktracurr	icular activities	or summertir	ne activities.	
50					Total score:	
23. D	an maintain noteboo oesn't lose sports eo eeps study area at h	quipmer	nt/personal elect			
					Total score:	
26. Co (e pl	an usually finish hon an make good decisi a.g., coming home fro aying with friends). an spread out a long	ons abc om scho	out priorities who ol to finish proje	ct rather tha		
			j		Total score:	
st re	able to increase eff udy strategies to ec port card grades).	ırn a hig	her grade on a t	test or bring	ange	
	/illing to engage in e /illing to practice wit			-		
					Total score:	
sc 2. Is (e	an accurately evalue chool performance). able to see impact o .g., to fit in with a g an perform tasks re	of beha roup or	vior on peers an avoid being teas	d make adjus sed).		
0. 0		quingi		casoning.	Total score:	
			KEY			
tems	Executive skill	ltems	Executive skill	ltems	Executive skill	
1–3 4–6 7–9	Response inhibition Working memory Emotional control Flexibility	13–15 16–18 19–21 22–24	Planning/prioritiz	28-30	J	
0–12	Texibility					
	ur child's executive sl (highest score		ngths You		utive skill weakn est scores)	esses
	ur child's executive sl		ngths You			esses

Executive Skills Questionnaire for Parents

Read each item below and then rate that item based on how well it describes you. Then add the three scores in each section. Find the three highest and three lowest scores.



^{19.} When I plan out my day, I identify priorities and stick to them.

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Exe	cutive Skills Questionnaire for Parents	(page 2 of 2)		
lten	<u>n</u>		Yc	our score
20.	When I have a lot to do, I co things.	an easily focus on the	e most important	
21.	I typically break big tasks d	own into subtasks an	d timelines.	
			Your total score	:
22.	l am an organized person.			
23.	It is natural for me to keep	my work area neat a	nd organized.	
24.	I am good at maintaining s	stems for organizing	g my work.	
			Your total score	:
25.	At the end of the day, I've u	sually finished what	l set out to do.	
26.	I am good at estimating ho	w long it takes to do	something.	
27.	I am usually on time for app	pointments and activ	ities.	
			Your total score	:
28.	I think of myself as being dr	riven to meet my goa	ls.	
29.	I easily give up immediate p	leasures to work on l	ong-term goals.	
30.	I believe in setting and achie	eving high levels of pe	erformance.	
			Your total score	:
31.	l routinely evaluate my perf personal improvement.	ormance and devise I	methods for	
32.	I am able to step back from decisions.	a situation in order	to make objective	
33.	l "read" situations well and reactions of others.	can adjust my behav	ior based on the	
			Your total score	:
		KEY		

Items	Executive skill	Items	Executive skill	Items	Executive skill
1–3	Response inhibition	13–15	Sustained attention	25–27	Time management
4-6	Working memory	16–18	Task initiation	28–30	Goal-directed persistence
7–9	Emotional control	19–21	Planning/prioritizing	31–33	Metacognition
10–12	Flexibility	22–24	Organization		

Strongest skills

Weakest skills

			How Much Progress Are U	Ue Making?		
	Date	Executive skill	Precise description of behavior (What does it look like/ sound like?)	Frequency (How often does the behavior occur?— times per day, per week, etc.)	Duration (How long does it last?)	Intensity (On a scale of 1 to 5, how intense is the behavior?)
			Does the behavior still	How often does it	How long does it	How intense
F	Follow-up date		look/sound the same?	happen now?	last now?	is it now?
	Follow-up 2					

67

Cue Card for Listening								
Week of:	Week of: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday							
Who?								
When?								
Face speaker								
Pay attention and show interest								
Keep body still								
Do not interrupt								
Overall rating of entire skill performance								

80

+ = independent/successful; h = with help; - = did not use skill or did incorrectly.

Morning Routine Checklist						
Task	Number of reminders/ tally marks (////)	Done (✓)				
Get up						
Get dressed						
Eat breakfast						
Put dishes in dishwasher						
Brush teeth						
Brush hair						
Get backpack ready for school						
Other:						
Other:						

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this session went compared to some others and asks Arjun why this might be. Arjun says, "Yeah, I knew exactly what to do. I remembered the way Mr. Frank told us how to do the homework. I get mad when I can't remember—or when I think I remember but it doesn't work out right."

Arjun's dad asks him if he knows before he even starts that the homework's going to be a problem or if it's only once he's started working. Arjun says, "Both—but what really makes me mad is when I thought I could do it but then I couldn't."

With a lot of sympathy and what psychologists call "reflective listening" (mirroring back the child's feelings, as in "That makes you so mad you want to throw your math book against the wall") Arjun's father was able to get Arjun to consider whether there were things he could do to help him manage the frustration more successfully. Arjun finally agreed that when he felt himself getting mad during math homework, he would

Checklist			
Task	Number of reminders/ tally marks (////)	Done (√)	

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Incentive Planning Sheet

PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

GOAL

POSSIBLE REWARDS

Daily	Weekly	Long-term
POSSIBLE CONTINGENO	CIES/PENALTIES	

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Behavior Contract			
Child agrees to:			
To help child reach goal, parents will:			
Child will earn:			
If child fails to meet agreement, child will:			

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Designing Interventions

Intervention steps	Reference page(s)
1. Establish behavioral goal.	p=90(0)
Problem behavior:	94
Goal behavior:	94
2. What environmental supports will be provided? (Check all that apply.)	
Change physical or social environment (e.g., add physical barriers, reduce distractions, provide organizational structures, reduce social complexity).	76–78
Change the nature of the task (e.g., shorten it, build in breaks, give something to look forward to, create a schedule, build in choice, make the task more fun).	78–80
Change the way adults interact with the child (e.g., rehearsal, prompts, reminders, coaching, praise, debriefing, feedback).	80-85
3. What procedure will be followed to teach the skill?	86–103
Who will teach the skill/supervise the procedure?	
What steps will the child follow?	
1	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
4. What incentives will be used to encourage the child to learn, practice, or use the skill? (Check all that apply.)	104–116
□ Specific praise	106–108
□ Something to look forward to when the task (or a piece of the task) is done	
A menu of rewards and penalties	112–113
Daily reward possibilities:	
Weekly reward possibilities:	
Long-term reward possibilities:	

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Morning Routine Checklist			
Task	Number of reminders/ tally marks (////)	Done (√)	
Get up			
Get dressed			
Eat breakfast			
Put dishes in dishwasher			
Brush teeth			
Brush hair			
Get backpack ready for school			
Other:			
Other:			

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Getting Ready for School Checklist

Task	Done (∕∕)
All homework completed	
All homework in appropriate place (notebook, folder, and so on)	

Items to go to school	Placed in backpack (✓)
Homework	
Notebooks/folders	
Textbooks	
Silent reading book	
Permission slips	
Lunch money	
Sports/PE clothes/equipment	
Notes for teacher	
Assignment book	
Other:	
Other:	

Bedroom-Cleaning Checklist			
Task	Number of reminders/ tally marks (////)	Done (√)	
Put dirty clothes in laundry			
Put clean clothes in dresser/closet			
Put toys away (toy shelves, toy box)			
Put books on bookshelves			
Tidy desk			
Throw away trash			
Return things to other rooms (for example, dishes, cups, towels, sports stuff)			
Other:			
Other:			

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Putting Belongings Away Checklist				
Belonging	Where does it go?	When will I put it away?	Number of reminders/ tally marks (////)	Done! (√)
Sports equipment				
Outerwear (jackets, gloves, and so on)				
Other clothing				
Shoes				
Homework				
Backpack				
Other:				
Other:				

Completing Chores					
When will you doChoreHow long will it take?Day					

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Chore done (✓)						
1							
2							
3							
4							

Learning a New Skill/Maintaining a Practice Schedule

Before you begin, answer the following questions:

- 1. What do I want to learn?
- 2. Why do I want to learn this?
- 3. What will be involved in learning the skill (lessons, practice, and so on), and how much time will be involved?

What needs to be done	When will this happen?	How much time will it take?
Lessons		
Practice		
Other (for example, games, exhibitions, recitals)		

4. Will I have to give up anything I'm doing now to fit this into my schedule?

If you decide you want to go ahead, plan your schedule by filling in the boxes that follow. Write what time each activity will take place and how long it will last. You can use this to keep track of your practices as well by crossing off each practice after you've finished it.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Lessons							
Practice							
Games, exhibitions, recitals							

Bedtime Routine Checklist					
Task	Number of reminders/ tally marks (////)	Done (√)			
Pick up toys					
Make sure backpack is ready for school					
Make a list of anything you have to remember to do tomorrow					
Get clothes ready for next day					
Put on pajamas					
Wash face or bathe					
Brush teeth					
Other:					
Other:					

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Steps for Maintaining a Clean Desk

- 1. Before beginning homework or any other desk project, make sure the desk looks like the photo. If not, put things away so the desk does look like the photo.
- **2.** After finishing homework, put everything away so that the desk again looks like the photograph. This step could also be built into a bedtime routine.
- **3.** Once a week, go through the baskets and decide what needs to stay in the basket, what can be filed, and what should be thrown away/recycled.
- **4.** Create a checklist that lists the tasks involved in maintaining a clean desk. A sample is below.

Fading the Supervision

- 1. Using your child's chosen cueing system, cue your child for each step in the maintenance procedure and supervise throughout the routine, providing frequent praise and encouragement as well as constructive feedback.
- 2. Cue your child to begin, make sure they start step 1 of the procedure, and come back at the end to make sure they finished. Do the same with step 2. At step 3, stay with your child to assist in basket cleaning.
- **3.** Cue your child for all three steps of the maintenance procedure but leave and check in at the end.
- **4.** Remind your child to begin the procedure. At a later point (such as just before bed), check in to make sure the desk is clean. Provide praise and constructive feedback.

Clean Desk Checklist							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Desk surface picked up							
Baskets cleared							
Desk matches photograph							

Daily Homework Planner

Date:

Subject/ assignment	Do I have all the materials?	Do l need help?	Who will help me?	How long will it take?	When will I start?	Done (√)
	Yes No	Yes No				
	Yes No	Yes No				
	Yes No	Yes No				
	Yes No	Yes No				
	Yes No	Yes No				
	Yes No	Yes No				

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149

yccail) of a		
System element	What will you use?	Got it (✓)
Place for unfinished homework		
Place for completed assignments		
Place to keep materials for later filing		
Notebooks or binder(s) for each subject		
Other things you might need: 1. 2. 3.		
4.		

Setting Up a Notebook/Homework Management System

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binder to handle all subjects. You may want to visit an office supply store to gather ideas.

- **3.** Gather the materials you need—from the house if you have them on hand or from the office supply store if you don't. Materials should include a three-hole punch, lined and unlined paper, subject dividers, and small Post-it packages your child might want to use to flag important papers.
- 4. Set up the notebooks and folders, labeling everything clearly.
- 5. At the beginning of each homework session, have your child take out the folders for completed assignments, unfinished work, and material to be filed. Have your child make a decision about each piece of material and where it should go. Complete this process before beginning homework.
- **6.** When homework is completed, have your child place homework in the appropriate folder and file anything else that needs to be saved.

Fading the Supervision

- Using your child's preferred cueing system, cue your child to begin homework by following the "organizing" process. Supervise each step of the process to make sure all steps are followed and checked off on a checklist. A sample is provided below.
- 2. Cue your child to begin homework with the organizing process and remind the child to check off each step when done. Check back periodically and check in at the end of homework to make sure the checklist is done and that materials have been stored appropriately.
- **3.** Cue at the beginning, check in at the end, and do occasional spot checks of note-books, folders, and other files.

Modifications/Adjustments

- As much as possible, involve your child in the design of the organizing system. We've discovered that what works well for one person is a disaster for another because it's not a good fit.
- **2.** Redesign the elements that aren't working right. Again, involve your child in the troubleshooting. "How could this work better for you?" is the way to approach this.

	,		,	, J.	
Task	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Weekend
Clean out "to be filed" folder					
Go through notebooks and books for other loose papers and file them					
Do homework					
Place all assignments (both finished and unfinished) in appropriate places					

Maintaining a Notebook/Homework Management System

Sample Hard Times Board

TRIGGERS: WHAT MAKES ME MAD



- 1. When I have to stop doing something fun
- 2. When it's time to do a chore
- 3. When my plans don't work out

CAN'T DOS



- 1. Hit somebody
- 2. Break anything

WHEN I'M HAVING A HARD TIME, I CAN:



- 1. Draw a picture
- 2. Read a book
- 3. Listen to music
- 4. Play with the dog

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My Hard Times Board

TRIGGERS: WHAT MAKES ME MAD

1. 2. 3.

1. 2.



CAN'T DOS



WHEN I'M HAVING A HARD TIME, I CAN:



Maintaining Self-Control

The things I do without thinking include:



Common situations where I act without thinking are:



What I will do to stay controlled:



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Sample Worry Board

I GET WORRIED WHEN ...



- 1. I have a test at school
- 2. I have to kick a soccer ball in a game
- 3. I have to talk in front of a group

WHEN I GET NERVOUS



- 1. My heart beats too fast
- 2. My stomach feels queasy
- 3. I have trouble thinking clearly

WHEN I'M FEELING WORRIED OR NERVOUS, I CAN ...



- 1. Draw a picture of my worry and then tear it up
- 2. Use a relaxation technique
- 3. Talk back to my worries
- 4. Listen to music

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My Worry Board

I GET WORRIED WHEN ...



WHEN I GET NERVOUS ...



WHEN I'M FEELING WORRIED OR NERVOUS, I CAN ...



Managing Changes in Plans or Schedules

DAILY SCHEDULE

Data

Time	Activity

Surprise:

- **3.** Talk with your child about the fact that changes or "surprises" can always come up despite plans and schedules established in advance. Give examples: instead of fish, we have pizza for dinner; you get to play outside for an extra 20 minutes; we have to go to the dentist today.
- 4. Create a visual for the schedule, such as activities written on a card or a series of pictures, and post it in at least two places, such as the kitchen and your child's room. Make a card that says "Surprise!" on it and explain that when a change is coming, you will show him the card, say what the change is, and write it in the "Surprise" section on the schedule. (Even when a change comes up that's a surprise to everyone, you can pull out the card and follow the same process.)
- **5.** Review the schedule with your child either the night before and/or the morning of the day.
- 6. Start to introduce changes. For each one, show the Surprise! card and then note the change in the Surprise section of the form. Initially these should be pleasant, such as extra playtime, going out for ice cream, playing a game with a parent. Gradually introduce more "neutral" changes (apple juice for orange juice, one cereal for another, and the like). Eventually include less pleasant changes (can't do a planned activity because of weather).

Modifications/Adjustments

If the Surprise! card and the gradual introduction of changes are not sufficient, there are a few other approaches to consider. When possible, introduce the change well before the event. This gives your child time to adjust gradually rather than quickly. Depending on her reaction to less pleasant change (crying, resisting, complaining), talk about other behaviors the child could use that would allow for protest in an acceptable way (such as filling out a Complaint Form, see below). You also can provide a reward for successfully managing the change. Keep in mind that reactivity to change decreases with the amount of exposure that the child has and the success she has in negotiating it. As long as the exposure is gradual and does not initially involve situations that are frustrating or threatening, your child can become more flexible.

14. Learning Not to Cry over Little Things

Executive skills addressed: Emotional control (Chapter 12), flexibility (Chapter 13).

Ages: Any age.

When children cry over little things, they're generally trying to communicate that they want sympathy, and they're using this method of getting it because they've found it effective in the past. So the goal of this intervention is not to teach kids to be tough

Complaint Form

Date:

Nature of complaint:

Why you think the situation was unfair:

What you wish had happened:

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	Upset Log						
Date	Time	Duration of upset	Precipitating event				

Here's what I can do instead of crying:

Here's what will happen if I can keep from crying when I'm upset:

Here's what will happen when I cry over little things:

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Solving Problems Worksheet

What is my problem?

What are some possible things I could do to solve my problem?

What will I try first?

If this doesn't work, what can I do?

How did it go? Did my solution work?

What might I do differently the next time?

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How Well Can Your Child Inhibit Impulses?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.



PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Acts appropriately in situations where danger is obvious (e.g., not running into the road to retrieve a ball, looking both ways before crossing street)

Can share toys without grabbing

Can wait for a short period of time when instructed by an adult

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Can follow simple classroom rules (e.g., raising hand before speaking)

Can be in close proximity to another child without need for physical contact

Can wait until a parent gets off the phone before telling the parent something (may need reminders)

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Handles conflict with peers without getting into physical fights (may lose temper)

Follows home or school rules without an adult's immediate presence

Can calm down or de-escalate from emotionally charged situation when prompted by an adult

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Able to walk away from confrontation or provocation by a peer

Can say no to a fun activity if other plans have already been made

Resists saying hurtful things when with a group of friends
How Good Is Your Child's Working Memory?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.

Never or rarely

0

Does but not well (about 25% of the time)

1

Does fairly well (about 75% of the time)

2

Does very well (always or almost always)

3

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Runs simple errands (e.g., gets shoes from bedroom when asked)

Remembers instructions that were just given

Follows a routine with only one prompt per step (e.g., brushing teeth after breakfast)

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Able to run an errand with two to three steps

Remembers instructions that were given a couple of minutes earlier

Follows two steps of a routine with one prompt

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Remembers to perform a routine chore after school without reminder

Takes books, papers, assignments to and from school

Keeps track of changing daily schedule (e.g., different activities after school)

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Able to keep track of assignments and classroom expectations of multiple teachers

Remembers events or responsibilities that deviate from the norm (e.g., permission slips for field trips, special instructions regarding extracurricular activities)

Remembers multistep directions, given sufficient time or practice

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How Well Does Your Child Regulate Emotions?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.

	Does but not well	Does fairly well	Does very well
	(about 25%	(about 75%	(always or
Never or rarely	of the time)	of the time)	almost always)
0	1	2	3

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Can recover fairly quickly from a disappointment or a change in plans



Can use nonphysical solutions when another child takes a toy they were playing with

Can play in a group without becoming overly excited

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Can tolerate criticism from an adult (e.g., a teacher reprimand)

Can deal with perceived "unfairness" without becoming overly upset

Can adjust behavior quickly depending on the situation (e.g., calming down after recess)

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Doesn't overreact to losing a game or not being selected for an award

Can accept not getting what they want when working or playing in a group

Acts with restraint in response to teasing

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Can "read" reactions from friends and adjust behavior accordingly

Can anticipate outcomes and prepare for possible disappointment

Can be appropriately assertive (e.g., asking teacher for help, inviting someone to dance at a school dance)

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How Flexible Is Your Child?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.



Does but not well (about 25% of the time)

Does fairly well
(about 75%
of the time)
of the time)

2

Does very well (always or almost always)

3

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

0

Can adjust to a change in plans or routines (may need warning)

Recovers quickly from minor disappointments

Is willing to share toys with others

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Plays well with others (doesn't need to be in charge, can share, etc.)

Tolerates redirection by teacher when not following instructions

Adjusts easily to unplanned situations (e.g., a substitute teacher)

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Doesn't "get stuck" on things (e.g., disappointments, slights, etc.)

Can "shift gears" when plans have to change due to unforeseen circumstances

Can do "open-ended" homework assignments (may need assistance)

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

- Can adjust to different teachers, classroom rules, and routines
- Is willing to adjust in a group situation when a peer is behaving inflexibly

Is willing to adjust to or accept a younger sibling's agenda (e.g., allowing them to select a family movie)

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How Well Can Your Child Sustain Attention?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.



Does very well
(always or
almost always)

3

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Can complete a 5-minute chore (may need supervision)

Can sit through a preschool "circle time" (15–20 minutes)

Can listen to one to two picture books at a sitting

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Can spend 10–30 minutes on homework assignments

Can complete a chore that takes 10–20 minutes

Can sit through a meal of normal duration

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Can spend 30–60 minutes on homework assignments

Can complete chores that take 30–60 minutes (may need a break)

Can attend to sports practice, worship service, and the like for 60–90 minutes

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Can spend 60–90 minutes on homework (may need one or more breaks)

Can tolerate family commitments without complaining of boredom or getting into trouble

Can complete chores that take up to 2 hours (may need breaks)

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How Good Is Your Child at Task Initiation?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.



Does very well (always or almost always)



PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Will follow an adult directive right after it is given

Will stop playing to follow an adult instruction when directed

Can start getting ready for bed at set time with one reminder

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Can remember and follow simple one- or two-step routines (such as brushing teeth and combing hair after breakfast)

Can get right to work on a classroom assignment following teacher instruction to begin

Can start homework at an agreed-upon time with a single prompt

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Can follow a three- to four-step routine that has been practiced

Can complete three to four classroom assignments in a row

Can follow an established homework schedule (may need a reminder to get started)

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Can make and follow a nightly homework schedule with minimal procrastination

Can start chores at the agreed-upon time (e.g., right after school)—may need a written reminder

Can set aside a fun activity when they remember a promised obligation

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How Well Developed Are Your Child's Planning Skills?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.



Does very well (always or almost always)

3

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Can finish one task or activity before starting another

Able to follow a brief routine or plan developed by someone else

Can complete a simple art project with more than one step

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Can carry out a two- or three-step project (e.g., arts and crafts, construction) of the child's own design

Can figure out how to earn/save money for an inexpensive toy

Can carry out a two- to three-step homework assignment with support (e.g., a book report)

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Can make plans to do something special with a friend (e.g., go to the movies)

Can figure out how to earn/save money for a more expensive purchase (e.g., a video game)

Can carry out a long-term project for school, with most steps broken down by someone else (teacher or parent)

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Can do research on the Internet either for school or to learn something of interest

Can make plans for extracurricular activities or summer activities

Can carry out a long-term project for school with some support from adults

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How Well Developed Are Your Child's Organizational Skills?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.

Never or rarely	Does but not well	Does fairly well	Does very well
	(about 25%	(about 75%	(always or
	of the time)	of the time)	almost always)
		2	3

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Hangs up coat in appropriate place (may need a reminder)

Puts toys in proper locations (with reminders)

Clears place setting after eating (may need a reminder)

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Puts coat, winter gear, sports equipment in proper locations (may need reminder)

Has specific places in bedroom for belongings

Doesn't lose permission slips or notices from school

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Can put belongings in appropriate places in bedroom and other locations in house

Brings in toys from outdoors after use or at end of day (may need reminder)

Keeps track of homework materials and assignments

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Can maintain notebooks as required for school

Doesn't lose sports equipment/personal electronics

Keeps study area at home reasonably tidy

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How Good Are Your Child's Time Management Skills?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.

	Does but not well	Does fairly well	Does very well
	(about 25%	(about 75%	(always or
Never or rarely	of the time)	of the time)	almost always)
0	1	2	3

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Can complete daily routines without dawdling (with some cues/reminders)

Can speed up and finish something more quickly when given a reason to do so

Can finish a small chore within time limits (e.g., pick up toys before turning on the TV)

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Can complete a short task within time limits set by an adult

Can build in an appropriate amount of time to complete a chore before a deadline (may need assistance)

Can complete a morning routine within time limits (may need practice)

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Can complete daily routines within reasonable time limits without assistance

Can adjust a homework schedule to allow for other activities (e.g., starting early if there's an evening Scout meeting)

Can start long-term projects far enough in advance to reduce any time crunch (may need help with this)

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Can usually finish homework before bedtime

Can make good decisions about priorities when time is limited (e.g., coming home after school to finish a project rather than playing with friends)



Can spread out a long-term project over several days

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How Good Is Your Child at Goal-Directed Persistence?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.



PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Will direct other children in play or pretend play activities

Will seek assistance in conflict resolution for a desired item

Will try more than one solution to get to a simple goal

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Will stick with a challenging task to achieve the desired goal, such as building a difficult LEGO construct

Will come back to a task later if interrupted

Will work on a desired project for several hours or over several days

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Can save up allowance for 3-4 weeks to make a desired purchase

Can follow a practice schedule to get better at a desired skill (sport, instrument)—may need reminders



Can maintain a hobby over several months

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Able to increase effort to improve performance (e.g., work harder to get a higher grade on a test or a report card)

Willing to engage in effortful tasks to earn money

Willing to practice without reminders to improve a skill

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How Well Developed Are Your Child's Metacognitive Skills?

Use the following scale to rate how well your child performs each of the tasks listed. At each level, children can be expected to perform all the tasks listed fairly well to very well.



PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

Can make minor adjustments in a construction project or puzzle task when a first attempt fails

Can come up with a novel (but simple) use of a tool to solve a problem

Makes suggestions to another child for how to fix something

LOWER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 1-3)

Can adjust behavior in response to feedback from a parent or teacher

Can watch what happens to others and change behavior appropriately

Can verbalize more than one solution to a problem and make the best choice

UPPER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-5)

Can anticipate the result of a course of action and make adjustments accordingly (e.g., to avoid getting in trouble)

Can articulate several solutions to problems and explain the best one

Enjoys the problem-solving component of school assignments or video games

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Can accurately evaluate their own performance (e.g., in a sports event or school assignment)

Can see the impact of their behavior on peers and make adjustments (e.g., to fit in with the group or avoid being teased)

Can perform tasks requiring more abstract reasoning

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Long-Term Project-Planning Sheet

STEP 1: SELECT TOPIC

What are possible topics?	What I like about this choice:	What I don't like:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Final Topic Choice:

STEP 2: IDENTIFY NECESSARY MATERIALS

What materials or resources do you need?	Where will you get them?	When will you get them?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

(continued)

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Long-Term Project-Planning Sheet (page 2 of 2)

What do you need to do? (List each step in order)	When will you do it?	Check off when done
Step 1:		
Step 2:		
Step 3:		
Step 4:		
Step 5:		
Step 6:		
Step 7:		
Step 8:		
Step 9:		
Step 10:		

Reminder List

Include here any additional tasks or details you need to keep in mind as you work on the project. Cross out or check off each one as it is taken care of.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Writing Template for a Five-Paragraph Essay

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

Sentence 1 summarizes what your essay is about:

Sentence 2 focuses in on the main point you want to make:

Sentence 3 adds more detail or explains why the topic is important:

BODY PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph 1, topic sentence:

Supporting detail 1:

Supporting detail 2:

Supporting detail 3:

Paragraph 2, topic sentence:

Supporting detail 1:

Supporting detail 2:

Supporting detail 3:

(continued)

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Writing Template for a Five-Paragraph Essay (page 2 of 2)

Paragraph 3, topic sentence:

Supporting detail 1:

Supporting detail 2:

Supporting detail 3:

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

Restate the most important point from the paper you want to make (what the reader should go away understanding):

Tools for Studying

A. MENU OF STUDY STRATEGIES

Check off the ones you will use.

Passive strategies (use sparingly)

Active strategies (better)

- □ 1. Reread text□ 2. Reread notes
- □ 3. Highlight notes/text
- ☐ 4. Ready study guide
- 5. Rewrite notes
- 6. Read/watch
 Spark Notes,
 Khan Academy,
 and so on.
- 7. Make study guide
 8. Make flashcards/ Quizlet
 9. Make concept maps
 10. Organize notes
 11. Complete review packet (no answers)
 - □ 12. Attend review session or study group

Active strategies with feedback (best)

- 13. Quiz myself with Quizlet/ study guide/flash cards
- 14. Take practice test (check answers)
- 15. Redo old tests or homework (check answers)
- \Box 16. Have someone else quiz me
- □ 17. Complete review packet (check answers)
- \square 18. Meet 1:1 with teacher
- □ 19. Other:_

B. STUDY PLAN

Date	Day	Which strategies will I use? (write #)	How much time for each strategy?
	4 days	1.	1.
	before	2.	2.
	test	3.	3.
	3 days	1.	1.
	before	2.	2.
	test	3.	3.
	2 days	1.	1.
	before	2.	2.
	test	3.	3.
	1 day	1.	1.
	before	2.	2.
	test	3.	3.

C. POSTTEST EVALUATION

How did your studying work out? Answer the following questions:

- 1. What strategies worked best?
- 4. If no, what more should you have done?
- 2. What strategies were not so helpful?
- What will you do differently next time?
- 3. Did you spend enough time studying? Yes No

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