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Parent Daily Report (PDR)

34-item parent report of 4–10-year-olds

The Parent Daily Report (PDR) is a 34-item measure designed to assess parents' perception of behavioural and emotional problems in children aged 4–10 years. This original version of the measure includes items aimed at assessing negative behaviours displayed by the child within the last 24 hours.

Psychometric features	Internal consistency	Test-retest reliability	Validity	Sensitivity to change
	✓	✓	?	✓
Implementation features	Brevity	Availability	Ease of Scoring	Used in the UK
	✓	✓	✓	?

*Please note that our assessment of this measure is based solely on the English version of the PDR.

What is this document?

This assessment of the Parent Daily Report (PDR) has been produced by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) as part of guidance on selecting measures relating to parental conflict and its impact on children. To read the full guidance report and download assessments of other measures, visit: <https://www.eif.org.uk/resource/measuring-parental-conflict-and-its-impact-on-child-outcomes>



- The PDR has one item examining the use of physical punishment by parents ('parents spank'). If an individual raises issues around parental abuse, the appropriate safeguarding procedures should be put in place.
- We found insufficient evidence to establish that the PDR is a valid measure.
- The PDR can be used to help parents identify specific behavioural problems that can be discussed with practitioners to inform tailored parenting advice. If using the measure in this manner, it becomes part of the intervention, meaning that it is no longer appropriate for use as an assessment tool during rigorous impact evaluations. In these instances, child outcomes can be evaluated using other validated instruments.

About the measure

 <p>Author(s)/ developer(s)</p> <p>Patterson, G.R., Chamberlain, P., & Reid, J.B.</p>	 <p>Publication year for the original version of the measure</p> <p>1969 (Chamberlain & Reid, 1987)</p>	 <p>Type of measure</p> <p>Parent report of child.</p>
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Outcome(s) assessed This measure was originally designed to assess negative behaviours displayed by the child at home but not revealed during observations.

Subscales According to the developers, administration of the PDR yields two scores: a Total Behaviour score, which reflects the number of negative behaviours displayed by the child in the last 24 hours, and a Target Behaviour score, which indicates whether the behaviour was considered stressful or problematic for the parent.

Purpose/primary use This measure was developed as an additional source of information to supplement parent and home observations, and can be used as an outcome measure. The checklist nature of the tool also helps parents identify specific behavioural problems that can be discussed with practitioners and inform tailored parenting advice.

Mode of administration This measure was originally developed to be completed over the phone.

Example item 'Noncomplying.'

Target population This measure was originally developed for children aged 4–10 years. From our review of the evidence, it appears that the PDR has been used by the developer with children aged 5–12 years (Chamberlain et al., 2006; Hurlburt et al., 2010) and 5–13 years (Patterson, 1974).

Response format Dichotomous scale (simple 'Yes' and 'No' answers).

Strengths & limitations**Strengths:**

- The PDR is a reliable measure which is sensitive to change in short interventions.
- The PDR is free to access and easy to score (the measure is available at: <https://www.oslc.org/pdr/>). The Total Behaviour score is the sum of all items, whereas the Target Behaviour score is the sum of all items considered by parents as problematic or stressful.

Limitations:

- From our review, we found insufficient evidence to establish that the PDR is a valid measure.
- According to our review, it does not appear that the PDR has been used in the UK and has UK cut-off scores.

Link

<https://www.oslc.org/pdr/>

Contact details

<https://www.oslc.org/contact/>

Copyright

Based on our review of the evidence, it appears that the developers did not provide information on copyright. The key reference (included below) should be cited when using the measure.

Key reference(s)

Chamberlain, P., & Reid, J.B. (1987). Parent observation and report of child symptoms. *Behavioral Assessment*, 9, 97–109.

Psychometric features in detail

Internal consistency

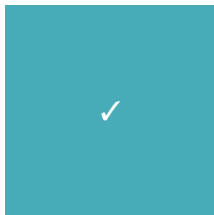


We found two papers (Chamberlain & Reid, 1987, McClowry et al., 2005) reporting good internal consistency for the PDR, with Cronbach's alpha values ranging from 0.65 to 0.87.

The analyses conducted by the developers (Chamberlain & Reid, 1987) identified four clusters of items (aggression, immature, unsocialised, and retaliation), with Cronbach's alpha for each cluster ranging between 0.65 to 0.88. This study, from which the measure was developed, was based on a sample of 81 families with children aged between 4–10 years. Sixty-two percent of the sample was male; 92% Caucasian, 4% African American and 4% Native American/American Indian.

McClowry et al. (2005) reported the internal consistency based on the Kuder-Richardson, which was reported to be 0.87. This study was conducted in the US with a sample of 148 children aged 5–9 years ($M = 6.6$, $SD = .84$, 89% black, 9% Hispanic, 60% living in single-parent homes, 35% living in a two-parent home).

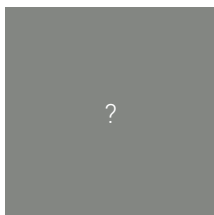
Test-retest reliability



As reported by Patterson (1973, as cited in Chamberlain & Reid, 1987), test-retest analyses completed over a one-week period resulted in ICC values of 0.60 (Patterson, 1973, as cited in Chamberlain & Reid, 1987).

The level of temporal stability for the PDR Total Behaviour score was 0.82 when analysed by Pearson correlation (Chamberlain & Reid, 1987).

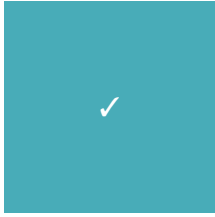
Validity



From our review, we found some evidence to support the validity of the PDR; however, this evidence is not sufficient for us to conclude that the PDR is a valid measure.

According to Chamberlain & Reid (1987), the PDR Total Behaviour score correlated with some factors from the Becker Adjective Checklist, namely 'aggression' ($r = 0.49$), 'conduct problem' ($r = 0.41$), and 'less relaxed' ($r = 0.36$).

Chamberlain & Reid (1987) reported also that the PDR Targeted Behaviour score correlated significantly ($r = 0.48$, $p < 0.02$) with concurrent home observation data collected by independent observers during dinner time using the Family Interaction Coding System. The authors reported, however, that the PDR Total Behaviour score had a low non-significant correlation with the concurrent home observation data ($r = 0.19$). This part of the study was conducted with a subset of 25 families with children aged between 4–10 years. Sixty-two percent of the sample was male; 92% Caucasian, 4% African American and 4% Native American/American Indian.

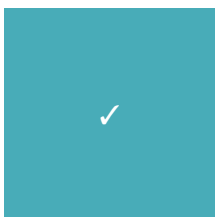
Sensitivity to change

The measure assesses the negative behaviours displayed by the child within the last 24 hours and there is evidence that it can detect changes after participation in short parenting and behavioural interventions.

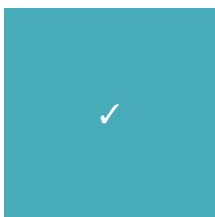
Sanders et al. (2000) reported that the PDR detected changes between pre-test and follow-up (PDR: $t(58) = -5.97$ $p < 0.001$. PDR: $t(65) = -6.19$ $p < 0.001$). This study was an RCT conducted in Australia on the Enhanced Triple P programme (12 sessions) aimed at reducing behavioural and emotional problems in children and increasing the ability of parents to communicate with each other and manage disruptive children in a positive manner. This study was conducted with a sample of 305 parents and children drawn from low income areas of Brisbane (mean age = 40.88 months, 40% in financial difficulty and over 50% of mothers in the sample suffering from a psychiatric illness).

Webster-Stratton & Hammond (1997) reported that the PDR was able to capture change over time (PDR number of negative behaviours: $t(22) = -3.09$ $p < 0.01$). This study, an RCT in the USA, was conducted to assess the impact of a 22-24 session parenting programme combined with the Incredible Years Child Training (Dinosaur School) programme aimed at teaching children self-regulation and problem-solving skills. This study was conducted with a sample of 97 children between the ages of 4–7 and 166 parents with a mean age of 68.97 months with around three-quarters of the sample being male.

Implementation features in detail

Brevity

This measure has 34 items and according to the developers, it can be completed in 5–10 minutes.

Availability

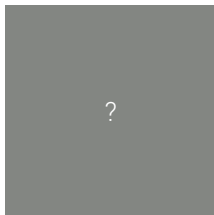
This measure is free to use and does not require a clinical licence.

Ease of scoring

The PDR has simple scoring instructions involving basic calculations. It does not need to be scored by someone with specific training or qualifications. Scoring instructions can be found in the original paper (Chamberlain & Reid, 1987).

The Total Behaviour score is the sum of all the items. The Target Behaviour score is the sum of all items that were considered by parents as problematic or stressful. Higher scores are indicative of more severe child behavioural or emotional problems.

The PDR does not seem to have standardised cut-offs for the UK population.

Used in the UK

We have not been able to identify UK impact evaluations in which the PDR has been used.

Language(s)

This measure is available in English and as far as we are aware, it has not been translated into other languages.

Of potential interest...

Based on our search, there seem to be many studies using versions of the PDR with a different number of items. According to Keil (2017), since its initial development, the number of items comprising the PDR has changed over time and depending on the research purpose, with items removed or added depending on the type of sample under investigation. The original measure consisted of 34 items (Chamberlain & Reid, 1987). Later, when research by Chamberlain and colleagues (1992) was conducted among a child welfare sample, new items relevant to the problems typically occurring in that population were added, including for example 'alcohol', 'temper tantrums' and 'inappropriate laughing'. In a study conducted by Webster-Stratton & Hammond (1997), an alternative version of PDR containing 38 items was used – 19 of these items assessed problematic behaviours and 19 other items assessed prosocial behaviours.

References

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First published in March 2020. © 2020