

FSSM 3-7

Frankfurt Scale of Selective Mutism

This questionnaire has been created to help us better understand your child's difficulties. In certain situations or in the presence of certain individuals, some children demonstrate shyness, or feel inhibited or anxious; they can be taciturn or even mute. The questions below are concerned with everyday situations in your child's life and are meant to reveal whether he/she has such difficulties. There are no right or wrong answers. Please check which answer most accurately describes your child's behavior in your opinion.

Child's age: _____

Child's sex: F M

You are the child's: mother father

Date: _____

First, please judge whether the following questions apply to your child.

General speaking behavior		Yes	No
1.	Does your child fail to speak in certain situations and/or with certain individuals even though it is expected of him/her?	1	0
2.	Does he/she speak in certain situations and/or with certain individuals only very softly and tonelessly, or only use single words?	1	0
3.	Is your child incapable in certain situations of shaking his/her head, of nodding or of pointing to something when asked to?	1	0
4.	Do his/her movements seem slow or frozen-like to you in certain situations?	1	0
5.	Does your child's facial expression appear less vivid or even expressionless and "frozen" in certain situations?	1	0
6.	Does he/she fall increasingly silent, the more he/she is pushed to speak?	1	0
7.	Does your child lower his/her head and/or avoid eye contact in certain situations, if he/she is spoken to?	1	0
8.	Does your child suppress noises (i.e., coughing, sneezing, clearing the throat, laughing, crying) in certain situations?	1	0
9.	Does your child try to avoid situations in which he/she is expected to speak by withdrawal, defiance or refusal?	1	0
10.	Is there an obvious difference between your child's speaking behavior at home (more talkative) and outside the home (taciturn or mute)?	1	0

Now, please assess your child's speaking behavior in various situations in kindergarten. If you are unsure how to answer the questions, ask your child's teacher for help.

Speaking behavior in kindergarten		Not at all	barely	partly	with restrictions, (e.g. only taciturn or whispering or only on request)	without problems
1.	Does your child speak in the sharing circle?	4	3	2	1	0
2.	Does your child join in the sing-along with the other kids?	4	3	2	1	0
3.	Does your child participate in hand movement games?	4	3	2	1	0
4.	Does your child join sport activities?	4	3	2	1	0
5.	Does your child speak to his/her mother or father in the kindergarten so that others can hear him/her?	4	3	2	1	0
6.	Does your child generally play with all the other kids (girls and boys)?	4	3	2	1	0
7.	Does your child play with a few select children?	4	3	2	1	0
8.	Does your child generally speak with all the kids (girls and boys)?	4	3	2	1	0
9.	Does your child speak with a few select children?	4	3	2	1	0
10.	Does your child speak with all teachers responsible for him/her?	4	3	2	1	0
11.	Does your child speak with a few select teachers?	4	3	2	1	0
12.	Does your child talk to individuals who are not direct caregivers (the principal, kitchen staff)?	4	3	2	1	0
13.	Does your child reciprocate greetings or good-byes from the teachers?	4	3	2	1	0
14.	Does your child talk about personal matters in kindergarten (feelings, needs, decisions, conflicts, wishes, experiences)?	4	3	2	1	0
15.	Does your child speak during performance-related requests (i.e., in preschool lessons), or when he/she feels tested?	4	3	2	1	0
16.	Does your child speak to teachers when he/she needs help, has to go to the bathroom, or has been hurt?	4	3	2	1	0

Please now assess your child's speaking behavior in public.

Speaking behavior in public		Not at all	barely	partly	with restrictions, (e.g. only taciturn or whispering or only on request)	without problems
1.	Does your child speak with his/her mother or father in the presence of others?	4	3	2	1	0
2.	Does your child speak on the playground with unfamiliar kids, if addressed?	4	3	2	1	0
3.	Does he/she address kids he/she doesn't know?	4	3	2	1	0
4.	Does he/she talk to the neighbors' kids?	4	3	2	1	0
5.	Does he/she speak with his/her friends in their home?	4	3	2	1	0
6.	Does he/she speak with his/her playmates' parents?	4	3	2	1	0
7.	Does he/she speak during group and club activities (music lessons, sports, Sunday school)?	4	3	2	1	0
8.	Does he/she answer when questioned by shop assistants (at the bakery or ice cream parlor, to the waiter in a restaurant)?	4	3	2	1	0
9.	Does he/she talk to his/her pediatrician?	4	3	2	1	0
10.	Does he/she talk to adults he/she is familiar with (i.e., his parents' friends)?	4	3	2	1	0
11.	Does he/she speak with the neighbors?	4	3	2	1	0
12.	Does he/she talk to adults he/she doesn't know?	4	3	2	1	0
13.	Does he/she reciprocate greetings or good-byes from others?	4	3	2	1	0
14.	Does he/she talk in detail about events or experiences when he's/she's away from home?	4	3	2	1	0
15.	Does he/she express himself/herself away from home about personal topics (feelings, wishes, needs, decisions, conflicts)?	4	3	2	1	0

Please now assess your child's speaking behavior at home in a familiar environment.

Speaking behavior at home		Not at all	barely	partly	with restrictions, (e.g. only taciturn or whispering or only on request)	without problems
1.	Does your child talk to all his/her closest relatives (mother, father, siblings)?	4	3	2	1	0
2.	Does your child speak with his/her grandparents, uncles, and aunts?	4	3	2	1	0
3.	Does he/she speak with related children/teenagers?	4	3	2	1	0
4.	Does he/she talk about personal topics at home (feelings, wishes, conflicts, needs, decisions, experiences)?	4	3	2	1	0
5.	Does he/she speak at home with close family members even when acquaintances (e.g. friends of his/her parents or neighbors) are visiting and can hear him/her?	4	3	2	1	0
6.	Does he/she speak at home with close family members even when people he/she doesn't know are visiting and can hear him/her?	4	3	2	1	0
7.	Does he/she talk to his/her friends when at home?	4	3	2	1	0
8.	Does he/she speak with his/her parents' friends when at home?	4	3	2	1	0
9.	Does he/she talk at home to the babysitter?	4	3	2	1	0
10.	Does he/she speak to friends and relatives on the telephone?	4	3	2	1	0

Please take a quick look to make sure you have answered all the questions.

Thank you!