

FSSM 12-18

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 and expressionless or does he/she display a steady smile of embarrassment?	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 at (secondary or vocational) school. If you are unsure how to answer the question, ask your child's classroom teacher for help.

Speaking behavior at school		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 classroom?	4	3	2	1	0
2.	Does your child speak on the schoolyard?	4	3	2	1	0
3.	Does your child speak on excursions or school trips?	4	3	2	1	0
4.	Does your child speak during summer jobs (vocational: at his/her workplace) with her colleagues?	4	3	2	1	0
5.	Does your child generally speak with all the teens (girls and boys) in his/her class?	4	3	2	1	0
6.	Does your child speak with a few select classmates?	4	3	2	1	0
7.	Does your child speak with students from other classes?	4	3	2	1	0
8.	Does your child speak at school with his/her mother or father so that others can hear him/her?	4	3	2	1	0
9.	Does your child sing along during the music class?	4	3	2	1	0
10.	Does your child speak with all the teachers?	4	3	2	1	0
11.	Does he/she speak with a few select teachers?	4	3	2	1	0
12.	Does your child speak with other school personnel (i.e., the school secretary, principal, janitor)?	4	3	2	1	0
13.	Does he/she voluntarily raise his/her hand in class?	4	3	2	1	0
14.	Does your child pose questions on his/her own in class?	4	3	2	1	0
15.	Does he/she answer the teacher's questions?	4	3	2	1	0
16.	Does your child read aloud in class?	4	3	2	1	0
17.	Does he/she recite poems or give oral reports in class?	4	3	2	1	0
18.	Does he/she talk at school about personal matters (feelings, needs, decisions, conflicts, wishes, experiences)?	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 holidays, at the swimming pool or in the cinema with unfamiliar teenagers, if addressed?	4	3	2	1	0
3.	Does he/she address teenagers he/she doesn't know?	4	3	2	1	0
4.	Does he/she talk to the neighbors' teenagers?	4	3	2	1	0
5.	Does he/she speak with his/her friends in public?	4	3	2	1	0
6.	Does he/she speak with his/her friends' or classmates' parents?	4	3	2	1	0
7.	Does he/she talk on the phone with familiar and unfamiliar people?	4	3	2	1	0
8.	Does he/she talk while taking part in group or club activities (music lessons, Sunday school, sports)?	4	3	2	1	0
9.	Does he/she speak for himself/herself when shopping, at a restaurant, at the bakery, or ice cream parlor?	4	3	2	1	0
10.	Does he/she talk to his/her doctor?	4	3	2	1	0
11.	Does he/she talk to adults he's/she's familiar with (i.e. her parents' friends)?	4	3	2	1	0
12.	Does he/she speak with the neighbors?	4	3	2	1	0
13.	Does he/she talk to adults he/she doesn't know?	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 talk about personal topics (feelings, wishes, needs, decisions, conflicts) when he's/she's away from home?	4	3	2	1	0
16.	Does he/she reciprocate greetings or goodbyes from others?	4	3	2	1	0
17.	Can he/she engage in small talk?	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

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

Thank you!