

MEEC

Instructions: Please read each statement and decide whether it describes your child. Mark your answer by circling the appropriate number for each statement. Please answer to the best of your ability and do not leave any statement unrated.

		Strongly Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Strongly Agree
1	My child feels worried about people that are not as lucky as them	1	2	3	4
2	My child ignores situations where someone is badly injured or upset	1	2	3	4
3	Sad movies or TV shows make my child sad	1	2	3	4
4	When another child gets frightened, my child freezes or starts to cry	1	2	3	4
5	If someone gets hurt, my child is not emotionally affected	1	2	3	4
6	My child becomes scared when s/he sees someone who is scared	1	2	3	4
7	When someone is upset, my child shares their toys with them	1	2	3	4
8	My child comforts me when I am upset	1	2	3	4
9	My child gets deeply involved with the feelings of a character in a film, play, or novel	1	2	3	4
10	My child tries to comfort a friend when they are upset	1	2	3	4
11	My child is emotionally affected by book characters that are in trouble	1	2	3	4
12	My child does things to cheer me up, such as picking me flowers, drawing a picture or getting something for me	1	2	3	4
13	When I am hurt, my child comes over and checks on me	1	2	3	4
14	My child becomes sad when other children around him/her are sad	1	2	3	4
15	When someone gets hurt, my child may look up, but will not be concerned	1	2	3	4
16	It worries my child when others are worrying and panicky	1	2	3	4
17	My child becomes nervous when other children around him/her are nervous	1	2	3	4
18	My child gets upset/worried when characters in a book are lost, in danger or hurt	1	2	3	4
19	When others around my child are nervous or worried, s/he gets a bit scared and worried too	1	2	3	4
20	My child gets emotional when s/he sees someone less fortunate than them, such as a homeless person	1	2	3	4
21	My child also needs to be comforted when another child is in pain	1	2	3	4
22	When another child is upset, my child needs to be comforted too	1	2	3	4
23	My child gets upset if movie/TV show characters are upset	1	2	3	4

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		Strongly Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Strongly Agree
24	My child is upset when something bad happens to a character in a movie	1	2	3	4
25	When another child cries, my child looks away	1	2	3	4
26	My child notices but does not show concern when someone is hurt/ injured	1	2	3	4
27	Other people's misfortunes do not disturb my child a great deal	1	2	3	4
28	Seeing posters of homeless or sick children upsets my child	1	2	3	4
29	When I am hurt, my child reassures me that everything will be okay	1	2	3	4
30	My child feels sad for other people who are physically disabled (e.g. in a wheelchair)	1	2	3	4
31	My child comforts children who are distressed	1	2	3	4
32	My child tries to make people feel better when s/he realises they are upset	1	2	3	4
33	My child does not notice when someone else is crying	1	2	3	4
34	When I am upset or tired, my child does nice things for me (e.g. getting tissues)	1	2	3	4
35	My child does not change his/her behaviour or emotions in response to someone being upset	1	2	3	4

Note: MEEC = Measure of Empathy in Early Childhood, items 2, 5, 15, 25, 26, 27, 33, 35 are reverse scored (1=4, 2=3, 3=2, 4=1).

Unpublished rating scale by Kimonis et al. (2021), School of Psychology, University of New South Wales.

Kimonis, E. R., Jain, N., Neo, B., Fleming, G. E., & Briggs, N. (2021). Development of an Empathy Rating Scale for Young Children. *Assessment*.