

Scoring Guide for the Behavior Deficits and Excesses Questionnaire (B-DEQ)

The items in the B-DEQ comprise 5 scales of 5 items each, 25 items total. It is usually easiest to score all 5 scales first before calculating the total difficulties score. “Somewhat True” is always scored as 1, but the scoring of “Not True” and “Certainly True” varies either 0 or 2 depending on the item, as shown below scale by scale. For each of the 5 scales, the score will range between 0 and 10 if all items are completed.

Not True	Somewhat True	Certainly True
----------	---------------	----------------

Emotional problems scale³

- ITEM 3: Often complains of headaches... (*I get a lot of headaches...*)
- ITEM 8: Many worries... (*I worry a lot*)
- ITEM 13: Often unhappy, depressed... (*I am often unhappy....*)
- ITEM 16: Nervous or clingy in new situations... (*I am nervous in new situations...*)
- ITEM 24: Many fears, easily scared (*I have many fears...*)

0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2

Emotional Problems Total

Peer problems scale³

- ITEM 6: Rather solitary, tends to play alone (*I am usually on my own*)
- ITEM 11: Has at least one good friend (*I have one good friend or more*)
- ITEM 14: Generally liked by peers (*Other people my age generally like me*)
- ITEM 19: Picked on or bullied by other students... (*Other children or young people pick on me*)
- ITEM 23: Gets along better with adults than with peer group (*I get along better with adults than with people my age*)

0	1	2
2	1	0
2	1	0
0	1	2
0	1	2

Peer Problems Total

Not True	Somewhat True	Certainly True
----------	---------------	----------------

Conduct problems Scale²

- ITEM 5: Often loses his/her temper (*I get very angry*)
- ITEM 7: Generally well-behaved... (*I usually do as I am told*)
- ITEM 12: Often fights with other children... (*I fight a lot*)
- ITEM 18: Often lies or cheats (*I am often accused of lying or cheating*)
- ITEM 22: Steals from home, school, or elsewhere (*I take things that are not mine*)

0	1	2
2	1	0
0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2

Conduct Problems Total

Hyperactivity scale²

- ITEM 2: Restless, overactive, cannot stay still for long... (*I am restless...*)
- ITEM 10: Constantly fidgeting or squirming (*I am constantly fidgeting....*)
- ITEM 15: Easily distracted, concentration wanders (*I am easily distracted*)
- ITEM 21: Thinks things out before acting (*I think before I do things*)
- ITEM 25: Good attention span... (*I finish the work I am doing*)

0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2
2	1	0
2	1	0

Hyperactivity Total

Prosocial scale¹

- ITEM 1: Considerate of other people's feelings (*I try to be nice to other people*)
- ITEM 4: Shares readily with other children... (*I usually share with others*)
- ITEM 9: Helpful if someone is hurt... (*I am helpful is someone is hurt...*)
- ITEM 17: Kind to younger children (*I am kind to younger children*)
- ITEM 20: Often offers to help others... (*I often volunteer to help others*)

0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2
0	1	2

Prosocial Total

The **total difficulties score**¹ is calculated by adding the conduct, hyperactivity, peer problems, and emotional problems scale scores, everything except the prosocial scale. The combined score will range from 0 to 40, if all items are scored.

¹ The Prosocial scale is not used in the total difficulties score.

² The externalizing score ranges from 0 to 20 and is the sum of the conduct and hyperactivity scales.

³ The internalizing score ranges from 0 to 20 and is the sum of the emotional and peer problems scales.

Externalizing and internalizing scores: Using these two scales may be preferable to using the four separate scales in community samples, whereas using the four separate scales may add more value in high-risk samples (see Goodman & Goodman, 2009). Strengths and difficulties questionnaire is a dimensional measure of child mental health. (*Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescence Psychiatry*, 48(4), 400-403)

	Typical	Borderline	Atypical
Emotional problems score:	0-4	5	6-10
Peer problems score:	0-3	4	5-10
Internalizing Score (Emotional Problems + Peer Problems):	0-7	8-10	11-20
Conduct problems score	0-2	3	4-10
Hyperactivity score	0-5	6	7-10
Externalizing Score (Conduct Problems + Hyperactivity):	0-7	8-10	11-20
Total difficulties score (Externalizing + Internalizing):	0-11	12-15	16-40
Prosocial score (Higher = Better):	6-10	5	0-4

Disclaimer: This screener is an efficient means to determine baseline data on a student's recent behavior patterns. Preferably, more than one educator will complete B-DEQ per student. The information provided from this screener is by no means considered as thorough or accurate as a functional behavior assessment conducted by the special education department.