

The Brief Infant Toddler Social Emotional Assessment (BITSEA)

1. Description

The Brief Infant Toddler Social Emotional Assessment (BITSEA) is a screen for social-emotional development and competencies for children from 12 to 36 months. It is used to measure children's social competence and problem behaviours. The total scale consists of 42 items and measures social–emotional problems and competencies in infants and toddlers from 12 to 36 months.

The problem scale: This scale measures behaviours of the child that, if *present*, represent a problem.

Examples of statements for the Problem Domain include: “Is restless and can't sit still” and “Breaks or ruins things on purpose.”

The competence scale: This scale measures behaviours of the child that, if *absent*, represent a problem.

Example items for the Competence domain include: “Is affectionate with loved ones” and “Follows rules.”

The BITSEA has one form for all age groups. There is also a child-care provider form to look at behavior in that setting.

2. Administration

Parents complete the 42-item form, which can be completed onsite or in the family environment. There are also two additional questions that ask parents or caregivers "how worried" they are about the child's behavior, emotions, and relationships, as well as language development. The questionnaire can be completed in seven to 10 minutes. The content is written at the sixth-grade reading level.

3. Scoring & Interpretation

The response categories are: "Not true/Rarely", "Somewhat true/Sometimes", and "Very true/Often", and are scored 0, 1, and 2 respectively. The threshold for identifying at-risk children varies by age. Scoring will indicate either a possible problem or a possible deficit/delay in competencies.