

Social Competence Screener. As part of the Texas School Readiness Certification System, kindergarten teachers will rate children's social competence using the *Social Competence Screener*. This measure is a subscale from the teacher *Social Competence and Behavior Evaluation* (SCBE-30).¹⁻³ Specifically, this 10-item subscale measures social behavior in children (e.g., socially integrated, tolerant, cooperative) and has demonstrated high inter-rater (.83-.87) and test-retest reliability (.82). Example items include, "Comforts or assists another child in difficulty," and "Works easily in a group." Each item utilizes a six-point scale (1=almost never occurs and 6=almost always occurs). The full SCBE-30 was designed for use with children aged 2.5 through 6 years. The measure is comprised of three scales: social competence, anxiety-withdrawal, and anger aggression. It has been successfully validated and used in numerous studies (e.g., LaFreniere & Dumas³; LaFreniere et. al.⁴) The full questionnaire examines social competence and behavioral/emotional adjustment in preschool children by tapping overall emotional expression, social interactions with peers, and interactions with teachers. There is both an English and Spanish version available and a parent and teacher version available that identifies both positive and negative behavioral tendencies along each construct being measured.

1. Dumas, J. E., Martinez, A., & LaFreniere, P. J. (1998). The Spanish version of the Social Competence and Behavior Evaluation (SCBE) - Preschool edition: Translation and field testing. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 20, 255-269.
2. Kotler, J. C. & McMahon, R. J. (2002). Differentiating anxious, aggressive and socially competent preschool children: Validation of the Social Competence and Behavior Evaluation -30 (parent version). *Behavior Research and Therapy*, 40, 947-959.
3. LaFreniere, P. J. & Dumas, J. E. (1996). Social competence and behavior evaluation in children ages 3 to 6 years: The short form (SCBE-30). *Psychological Assessment*, 4, 442-450.
4. LaFreniere, P. J., Masataka, N., Butovskaya, M., Chen, Q., Dessen, M. A., Atwanger, K. et al. (2002). Cross-cultural analysis of social competence and behavior problems in preschoolers. *Early Education and Development*, 13, 201-219.