

Student Risk Screening Scale for Early Childhood (SRSS-EC)
Preliminary Results of Categorical Scores
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We are sharing preliminary cut scores with districts and early education systems who are using the Student Risk Screening Scale for Early Childhood (SRSS-EC; Lane & Menzies, 2010) and those interested in systematic screening for preschool-age children. We have conducted four studies featured in two peer-reviewed research articles (Lane et al., 2020; Lane et al., 2015). These studies included four samples from the Midwest, with samples of children ranging from 90 to 737. Samples varied in demographics, including children from large, economically diverse public early childhood centers. We have explored the factor structure, established preliminary evidence of convergent validity between SRSS-EC scores and (a) Early Screening Project (ESP; Walker et al., 1995), (b) Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (Goodman, 1997), (c) Social Skills Improvement System – Performance Screening Guide (Elliott & Gresham, 2007), and (d) Caregiver – Teacher Report Form (C-TRF; Achenbach, 1991) scores. We have also established cut scores for externalizing and internalizing scale risk categories, using C-TRF scores as the criterion. We recommend caution when interpreting these preliminary cut scores and encourage you to continue to look at multiple sources of data from multiple informants (e.g. caregivers, teachers, and families) for making all decisions to inform children’s preschool experiences.

As with any screening tool used in a low base rate context (i.e., non-clinical samples), this measure (the SRSS-EC I4) may identify children who are not exhibiting internalizing behaviors (false positives). Yet, designations from the SRSS-EC screener (as with all screeners) should have low-stakes consequences (e.g., the children are provided low-intensity supports or additional information is gathered to better inform Tier 2 and 3 supports). In this case, SRSS-EC scores will likely be a useful piece of information in the full scope of data available for decision making. We look forward to continuing to explore the utility of SRSS-EC scores with our partners in the coming years.

Risk Category	SRSS-EC E7 Items and Categorical Scores	SRSS-EC I4 Items and Categorical Scores
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tantrums • Active, restless • Rejected by peers • Ignores teacher and class rules • Negative attitude • Aggressive behavior • Lies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shy, timid • Sad, tearful • Worried, fearful • Physical complaints
Low	0-5 = low risk	0-2 = low risk
Moderate	6-7 = moderate risk	3-4 = moderate risk
High	8-21 = high risk	5-12 = high risk

Download the updated SRSS-EC in MS-Excel format and refer to the SRSS-EC Coaching Guide for instructions.

Sources:

Lane, K. L., Buckman, M. M., Common, E. A., Oakes, W. P., Lane, N. A., Schatschneider, C., Perez-Clark, P., Sherod, R. L., & Menzies, H. M., (2020). The Student Risk Screening Scale for Early Childhood: Additional validation studies. *Topics in Early Child Special Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121420922299>.

Lane, K. L., Oakes, W. P., Menzies, H. M., Major, R., Allegra, L., Powers, L., & Schatschneider, C. (2015). The Student Risk Screening Scale for Early Childhood: An initial validation study. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education* 34(4), 234-259. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121414544801>