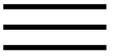


# Development of a rating scale to measure social skills in children: The Matson Evaluation of Social Skills with Youngsters (MESSY).

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Johnny L. Matson ... William J. Hesel

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#### Abstract

The development of a scale for assessing social skills with children is reported. The Matson Evaluation of Social Skills with Youngsters (**MESSY**) was completed on 744 children between 4 and 18 years of age. A self-report form was completed on 422 children while 322 children were rated on a teacher-report measure using a 5-point Likert-type scale. Analyses included test-retest reliability conducted at a 2-week interval using Pearson correlations, factor-analytic procedures and selected analyses of variance and appropriate *post-hoc* tests. Implications of present findings and directions for future research are discussed.

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