

## **Young Child PTSD Checklist (YCPC) – version 5/23/14**

**Author(s):** Scheeringa (2010)

**Population/Age Group:** Parents of children age 1 – 6 years

**Purpose:** This measure is used to assess post-traumatic stress symptoms in young children who may have experienced a traumatic event according to parent/caregiver report. It includes screening items for exposure to traumatic events. Symptom items map onto DSM-5 PTSD diagnostic criteria for children 6 and younger.

**Description:** The YCPC is a developmentally sensitive checklist to assess acute and chronic trauma-related symptoms in children ages 1–6.. The YCPC is completed by a parent or caregiver , and includes three sections: (1) 12 items assessing exposure to traumatic events, (2) 24 items assessing PTSD symptoms, and (3) 6 items assessing functional impairment. The traumatic events screening items (Items 1-12) are rated on a dichotomous (“did happen” or “did not happen”)scale, with follow-up questions on traumatic event details, to assess exposure to traumatic events in the young child’s life. Items 14-36 pertain to symptoms that children can have after life-threatening events and are rated on a 0 (“not at all”) to 4 (“everyday”) scale. Items 37-42 pertain to functional impairment and are rated on a 0 (“hardly ever/none”) to 4 (“everyday”) scale.

**Scoring and Interpretation:** The sum of the scores on items 14-36 may be used to identify a “probable diagnosis” of PTSD, with a suggested cutoff of 26 or more. Although below the cutoff, children with scores lower than 26 can still exhibit symptoms and functional impairment that may benefit from treatment.

**Psychometrics Properties:** Strong psychometric properties have been shown for internal consistency and test retest reliability.

**Training Requirements:** None. This resource should be used in an ethical and responsible manner and should be used only for the purpose(s) for which it has demonstrable validity.

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### **References**

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