

Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Age Children (K-SADS-PL)

The K-SADS-PL is a semi-structured diagnostic interview used to assess current and past episodes of psychopathology in children and adolescents, combining information from the young person, the parent(s), and clinical observation. The core consists of a screening interview covering 82 symptoms across 20 diagnostic areas, after which supplements are administered based on positive responses. The tool is particularly useful for exploring mood, anxiety, psychotic, behavioral, and attention disorders, as well as several other psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents.

Number of questions	82 questions
Estimated duration	60 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Age
Target audience	Children, adolescents
Authors	Joan Kaufman, Boris Birmaher, David Brent, Uma Rao, Cynthia Flynn, Paula Moreci, Douglas Williamson, Neal Ryan (1997)
Category	Adolescent care, Childhood

Preview of the 82 questions

Depressed mood

Have you ever felt sad, blue, down, or empty? Did you feel like crying? When was that? Do you feel (...) now? Was there ever another time you felt (...)?

- No information
- Not at all or less than once a week
- Subthreshold: Often experiences dysphoric mood at least 3 times a week for more than 3 hours each time
- Threshold: Feels "depressed" most of the day more days than not

Irritability and anger

Was there ever a time when you got annoyed, irritated, or cranky at little things? Did you ever have a time when you lost your temper a lot? When was that? Are you like that now?

No information | Not at all or less than once a week

Subthreshold: Feels definitely more angry or irritable than called for by the situation, at least 3 times a week for more than 3 hours each time, or often argumentative, quick to express annoyance

Threshold: Feels irritable/angry daily, or almost daily, at least 50% of awake time, or often shouts, loses temper

Anhedonia, lack of interest, apathy, low motivation, or boredom

What are the things you do for fun? Enjoy? Has there ever been a time you felt bored a lot of the time? When? Do you feel bored a lot now?

No information | Not present

Subthreshold: Several activities definitely less pleasurable or interesting, or bored or apathetic at least 3 times a week during activities

Threshold: Most activities much less pleasurable or interesting, or bored or apathetic daily, or almost daily, at least 50% of the time during activities

Recurrent thoughts of death

Sometimes children who get upset or feel bad, wish they were dead or feel they'd be better off dead. Have you ever had these type of thoughts? When? Do you feel that way now?

No information | Not present | Transient thoughts of death

Threshold: Recurrent thoughts of death, "I would be better off dead" or "I wish I were dead"

Suicidal ideation

Sometimes children who get upset or feel bad think about dying or even killing themselves. Have you ever had such thoughts? How would you do it? Did you have a plan?

No information | Not at all | Subthreshold: Occasional thoughts of suicide but has not thought of a specific method

Threshold: Often thinks of suicide and has thought of a specific method

Administer your questionnaires online

Send your patient a link: they answer from their phone or computer, and you receive the scored results by email.

View the questionnaire on mentaal.org ›

Scoring & interpretation

Clinical scoring, with no automatic total score. Screening symptoms are usually rated from 0 to 3: 0 = no information, 1 = not present, 2 = subthreshold, 3 = threshold; some additional items use a 0 to 2 rating. A screening item rated at threshold leads to the administration of the corresponding diagnostic supplement. The clinician then integrates the data

from the parent, the child/adolescent, and the interview to determine current and lifetime diagnoses according to the nosological criteria of the version used.

Are you a psychologist?

With Mentaal, get meaningful insights to support your patients.

- Standardized tests
- Automatic scoring
- Results sent by email

Try it for free

See all questionnaires

★★★★★

“I now use the platform every day, it's so comprehensive, reliable and remarkably easy to use.”

 Laura V. - Online Psychologist