SS

Security Scale (SS)

The Security Scale developed by Kerns and colleagues is a self-report questionnaire designed to measure the degree of attachment security the child perceives toward their mother. It is mainly used in research to assess individual differences in secure attachment among children aged 8 to 12. This questionnaire helps identify perceptions of the maternal figure's support, availability, and reliability.

Number of questions	15 questions
Estimated duration	10 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Security Scale
Target audience	Children (8-12 years)
Authors	Karen Kerns, Steven W. Klepac, J. Wayne Cole (1996)
Category	Childhood

Preview of the 15 questions

Some kids find it easy to trust their mom BUT Other kids are not sure if they can trust their mom.

Really true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (second sentence) | Really true for me (second sentence)

Some kids feel like their mom butts in a lot when they are trying to do things BUT Other kids feel like their mom lets them do things on their own.

Really true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (second sentence) | Really true for me (second sentence)

Some kids find it easy to count on their mom for help BUT Other kids think it's hard to count on their mom.

Really true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (second sentence) | Really true for me (second sentence)

Some kids think their mom spends enough time with them BUT Other kids think their mom does not spend enough time with them.

Really true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (second sentence) | Really true for me (second sentence)

Some kids do not really like telling their mom what they are thinking or feeling BUT Other kids do like telling their mom what they are thinking or feeling.

Really true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (first sentence) | Sort of true for me (second sentence) | Really true for me (second sentence)

Scoring & interpretation

Each item is rated on a 4- or 5-point Likert-type scale (depending on the version), generally ranging from “not at all true” to “completely true” for the child. Raw scores are summed; a higher score reflects a greater perceived attachment security toward the mother. There is no formal clinical cutoff; interpretation refers to the distribution of scores to categorize the level of security.