



## Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC)

The Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC) is a 20-item self-report depression inventory with possible scores ranging from 0 to 60. Each response to an item is scored as follows:

- 0 = "Not At All"
- 1 = "A Little"
- 2 = "Some"
- 3 = "A Lot"

However, items 4, 8, 12, and 16 are phrased positively, and thus are scored in the opposite order:

- 3 = "Not At All" 2 = "A Little"
- 1 = "Some" 0 = "A Lot"

Higher CES-DC scores indicate increasing levels of depression. Weissman et al. (1980), the developers of the CES-DC, have used the cutoff score of 15 as being suggestive of depressive symptoms in children and adolescents. That is, scores over 15 can be indicative of significant levels of depressive symptoms.

Remember that assessing for depression can be complex and serves as merely a starting point. Additional assessment is necessary for children who are flagged through the screening process. Further evaluation is warranted for children displaying depressive symptoms even if they do not test positively during screening.

# Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC)

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS

Below is a list of the ways you might have felt or acted. Please check how *much* you have felt this way during the *past week*.

DURING THE PAST WEEK	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot
1. I was bothered by things that usually don't bother me.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. I did not feel like eating, I wasn't very hungry.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. I wasn't able to feel happy, even when my family or friends tried to help me feel better.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. I felt like I was just as good as other kids.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. I felt like I couldn't pay attention to what I was doing.	_____	_____	_____	_____

DURING THE PAST WEEK	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot
6. I felt down and unhappy.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. I felt like I was too tired to do things.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. I felt like something good was going to happen.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. I felt like things I did before didn't work out right.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. I felt scared.	_____	_____	_____	_____

DURING THE PAST WEEK	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot
11. I didn't sleep as well as I usually sleep.	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. I was happy.	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. I was more quiet than usual.	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. I felt lonely, like I didn't have any friends.	_____	_____	_____	_____
15. I felt like kids I know were not friendly or that they didn't want to be with me.	_____	_____	_____	_____

DURING THE PAST WEEK	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot
16. I had a good time.	_____	_____	_____	_____
17. I felt like crying.	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. I felt sad.	_____	_____	_____	_____
19. I felt people didn't like me.	_____	_____	_____	_____
20. It was hard to get started doing things.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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