

Teacher Coder Impressions Inventory

Classification of TCI Items

The Teacher Coder Impressions Inventory (TCI) is a measure of teacher behavior and teacher-child interactions in the classroom. The latest revision includes 71 items rated by the classroom observer. A factor analysis of the revised TCI items was carried out using a sample of 116 teachers in Head Start, Kindergarten, and first grade classrooms. This analysis generally supported the original classification of TCI items and provided empirical evidence for including additional items in the subscales. The five revised summary scales and their component items are shown in Table 1. Also shown is the internal reliability of each scale based on a sample of 116 teachers in Head Start, Kindergarten, and first grade classrooms.

Computing TCI Summary Scale Scores

Before computing summary scale scores, scale values for several items were re-scaled or reversed.

Items that were not rated on 6-point scales with scale values ranging from 0 to 5 were re-scaled:

Items 37 and 38: (1=0)(2=1)(3=2)(4=3)(5=4)(6=5).

Items 68, 69, 70, and 71: (0=0)(1=5).

Item 67: (1=0)(2=1.25)(3=2.50)(4=3.75)(5=5).

Items that were re-scaled are indicated with (S) in Table 1.

Scales were reversed for items 26, 35, 39, 42, 46, 47, 53, 55, 59, 60, 62, 63, and 67:

(0=5)(1=4)(2=3)(3=2)(4=1)(5=0). Items with reversed scales are indicated with (R) in Table 1. Note that item 67 was first re-scaled and then reversed.

In our administration of this instrument, each of 116 teachers was observed multiple times, averaging about four observations per teacher. Scores for each item for each teacher were averaged across observations before computing summary scale scores.

Items in each of the five summary scales are shown in Table 1. Summary scale scores were computed as the average of the component items. The range of values for the summary scale scores is 0 to 5.

Table 1. TCI Summary Scales, Component Items and Internal Reliability

TCI Summary Scales and Component Items		Standardized Alpha Coefficient
Harsh/Critical		.98
01	teacher threatened punishment	
04	made unreasonable requests	
05	criticized	
06	used guilt induction	
14	seemed to provoke children	
15	used sarcasm	
19	did not pay attention when children talk	
26	teacher enjoyed teaching (R)	
27	teacher showed anger	
28	teacher appeared depressed	
31	teacher physically aggressive	
32	teacher physically intrusive	
33	children physically aggressive to teacher	
35	teacher was patient with children (R)	
37	% time teacher inappropriate (S)	
39	teacher positive and reinforcing (R)	
43	overly strict	
46	consistent (R)	
48	tracked children too closely	
49	used nagging	
50	showed anger while disciplining	
53	disciplined children well (R)	
55	teacher used child directed approaches (R)	
57	distant, detached	
61	children feared teacher	
62	teacher treated children with respect (R)	
63	teacher supportive and empathic (R)	
65	teacher need intervention	
67	gut reaction of coder (S)(R)	

TCI Summary Scales and Component Items		Standardized Alpha Coefficient
Permissive/Inconsistent		.93
10	labeled misbehavior but no follow thru	
23	did not appropriately monitor children	
38	% time child inappropriate (S)	
40	teacher encouraged aggressive behavior	
42	teacher confident of skills (R)	
44	overly permissive	
45	erratic	
47	good control and influence (R)	
51	overly concerned about being fair	
52	tentative, indecisive	
58	children hostile toward teacher	
59	children treated teacher with respect (R)	
Warm/Affectionate		.90
07	gave rationales when appropriate	
08	tried to pleasantly tease out of bad mood	
17	paid attention when children talked	
24	verbally affectionate to children	
25	children verbally affectionate to teacher	
29	teacher physically affectionate	
30	children physically affectionate to teacher	
41	children enjoyed teacher rewards	
54	friendly relations between children & teacher	
56	teacher was playful with children	
60	children seemed aloof, unattached to teacher (R)	
Social-emotional Teaching		.84
16	taught prosocial behavior	
18	problem solved with children	
20	ignored inappropriate behavior	
21	discussed future activity with children	
22	encouraged children to try something new	
34	teacher shaped positive peer play	
36	teacher encourages feeling language	
64	relates positive comments to others	
66	teacher provides emotional stimulation	
70	teacher promotes social competence (S)	

TCI Summary Scales and Component Items		Standardized Alpha Coefficient
Effective Discipline		.58
02	teacher threatened and followed through	
03	warned of consequence	
09	clearly pinpointed infraction	
11	used time out	
12	used a point program	
13	used withdrawal of privileges	
68	classroom rules posted (S)	

Note: The following items are not in any summary scale score:

69. visual cues for social skills

71. daily schedule posted

Descriptive Statistics for TCI Summary Scale Scores

The descriptive statistics for the revised TCI summary scales presented in Table 2 are based on a sample of 116 teachers in Head Start, Kindergarten, and first grade classrooms.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics for TCI Summary Scales

TCI Summary Scales	Head Start N=45		Kindergarten N=30		Grade 1 N=31		Total Sample N=116	
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
Harsh/Critical	.69	.57	.69	.49	.76	.69	.71	.57
Permissive/Inconsistent	.46	.38	.57	.58	.37	.41	.47	.47
Warm/Affectionate	2.81	.55	2.80	.53	2.56	.61	2.74	.57
Social-emotional Teaching	1.67	.61	1.65	.62	1.55	.75	1.63	.65
Effective Discipline	1.16	.49	1.47	.51	1.43	.48	1.34	.51

Note: Scheffe range tests showed no significant differences among grades on any summary scale