A – 19 Scale for Children Who Stutter

Susan Andre and Barry Guitar (1996)
University of Vermont

Establish rapport with the child and make sure that he/she is physically comfortable before beginning administration. Explain the task to the child and make sure he/she understands what is required. Some simple directions might be used:

“I am going to ask you some questions. Listen carefully and then tell me what you think: Yes or No. There is no right or wrong answer. I just want to know what you think.”

To begin the scale, ask the questions in a natural manner. Do not urge the child to respond before he/she is ready, and repeat the question if the child did not hear it or you feel that he/she did not understand it. Do not reword the question unless you feel it is absolutely necessary, and then write the question you asked under that item.

Circle the answer that corresponds with the child’s response. Be accepting of the child’s response because there is no right or wrong answer. If all the child will say is “I don’t know,” even after prompting, record that response next to the question.

For the younger children (kindergarten and first grade), it might be necessary to give a few simple examples to ensure comprehension of the required task:

a. Are you a boy? YES NO
b. Do you have black hair? YES NO

Similar, obvious questions may be inserted, if necessary, to reassure the examiner that the child is actively cooperating at all times. Adequately praise the child for listening and assure him/her that a good job is being done.

It is important to be familiar with the questions so that they can be read in a natural manner.

The child is given one point for answers that match those given below. The higher a child’s score, the more probable it is that he/she has developed negative attitudes toward communication. In our study, the mean score of the K through 4th grade stutterers (n=28) was 9.07 (SD=2.44), and for the 28 matched controls, it was 8.17 (SD=1.80).

Score one point for each answer that matches these:

1. YES 6. YES 11. NO 16. NO
2. YES 7. NO 12. NO 17. NO
3. NO 8. YES 13. YES 18. YES
4. NO 9. YES 14. YES 19. YES
5. NO 10. NO 15. YES
A-19 Scale

Name: _______________________________   Date: ________________

1. Is it best to keep your mouth shut when you are in trouble?       YES    NO
2. When the teacher calls on you, do you get nervous?              YES    NO
3. Do you ask a lot of questions in class?                         YES    NO
4. Do you like to talk on the phone?                              YES    NO
5. If you did not know a person, would you tell them your name?    YES    NO
6. Is it hard to talk to your teacher?                            YES    NO
7. Would you go up to a new boy or girl in your class?             YES    NO
8. Is it hard to keep control of your voice when talking?          YES    NO
9. Even when you know the right answer, are you afraid to say it?  YES    NO
10. Do you like to tell other children what to do?                  YES    NO
11. Is it fun to talk to your dad?                                 YES    NO
12. Do you like to tell stories to your classmates?                YES    NO
13. Do you wish you could say things as clearly as the other kids do? YES    NO
14. Would you rather look at a comic book than talk to a friend?   YES    NO
15. Are you upset when someone interrupts you?                    YES    NO
16. When you want to say something, do you just say it?            YES    NO
17. Is talking to your friends more fun than playing by yourself?   YES    NO
18. Are you sometimes unhappy?                                    YES    NO
19. Are you a little afraid to talk on the phone?                  YES    NO