

## Social Competence

### *Definition*

Social competence is having a positive skill set needed to get along well with others and function properly in social groups (Child Trends, n.d.). Social competence is important for social and academic success, mental health, personal adjustment in children, adolescence, and early adulthood (Boyum & Parke, 1995; Masten & Coatsworth, 1998).

### *Related Indicators*

- Self-Concept
- Individual Self-Esteem
- Collective Self-Esteem
- School Climate
- School Membership
- Social Self-Efficacy
- Academic Self-Efficacy
- Emotional Self-Efficacy

***Social Competence – Grades 4 and 5***

Please read each statement carefully, and circle your answer based on how much you agree or disagree by using the following scale from:

1 = Disagree A Lot to 5 = Agree A Lot.

1.	I can always cheer up someone who is feeling sad.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
2.	I can always find a way to help people end arguments.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
3.	I listen carefully to what other people say to me.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
4.	I'm good at taking turns and sharing things with others.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
5.	It's easy for me to make suggestions without being bossy.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
6.	I'm very good at working with other children.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
7.	I always know when people need help, and what kind of help to give.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
8.	I know how to disagree without starting a fight or argument.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
9.	I'm very good at finding fair ways to solve problems.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5
10.	I am very good at helping people.	Disagree A Lot 1	2	3	4	Agree A Lot 5

Source: Developmental Studies Center, n. d.

***Social Competence – Teen Survey***

Please indicate how much these statements describe you by circling your response from:

1 = Not at all like me; 2 = A little like me; 3 = Somewhat like me; 4 = A lot like me;  
5 = Exactly like me

1.	I avoid making other kids look bad.	Not At All Like Me 1	A Little Like Me 2	Somewhat Like Me 3	A Lot Like Me 4	Exactly Like Me 5
2.	If two of my friends are fighting, I find a way to work things out.	Not At All Like Me 1	A Little Like Me 2	Somewhat Like Me 3	A Lot Like Me 4	Exactly Like Me 5
3.	When I work in school groups, I do my fair share	Not At All Like Me 1	A Little Like Me 2	Somewhat Like Me 3	A Lot Like Me 4	Exactly Like Me 5

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***Social Competence – Teen Survey***

Please indicate how much these statements describe you by circling your response from:

1 = None of the time; 2 = A little of the time; 3 = Some of the time; 4 = Most of the time;  
5 = All of the time

How often...

4.	Do you get along well with people of different races, cultures, and religions?	None Of The time 1	A Little Of The Time 2	Some Of The Time 3	Most Of The Time 4	All Of The Time 5
5.	Do you listen to other students' ideas?	None Of The time 1	A Little Of The Time 2	Some Of The Time 3	Most Of The Time 4	All Of The Time 5
6.	Do you control your anger when you have a disagreement with a friend?	None Of The time 1	A Little Of The Time 2	Some Of The Time 3	Most Of The Time 4	All Of The Time 5
7.	Can you discuss a problem with a friend without making things worse?	None Of The time 1	A Little Of The Time 2	Some Of The Time 3	Most Of The Time 4	All Of The Time 5
8.	Do you follow the rules at a park, theater, or sports event?	None Of The time 1	A Little Of The Time 2	Some Of The Time 3	Most Of The Time 4	All Of The Time 5
9.	Do you respect other points of view, even if you disagree?	None Of The time 1	A Little Of The Time 2	Some Of The Time 3	Most Of The Time 4	All Of The Time 5

Source: Child Trends, n.d