



LAB-PSE

Laboratorio di Psicologia dello Sviluppo e dell'Educazione

DISUF
Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Prosocial Behavior Observation Grid

Elisabetta Conte, Ilaria Grazzani, & Alessandro Pepe

PRESENTATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

N. _____

The Prosocial Behavior Observation Grid allows to record the occurrence of 2- to 5-year-olds' spontaneous helping, sharing, and comforting behaviors towards peers in the school setting.

Please remember to:

- Observe the child on four separate occasions (e.g. play with blocks, with dolls, in the garden, etc.) for 5 minutes, yielding a total of 20 minutes' observation time.
- Refraining as much as possible from any kind of interaction with the child.
- Enter detailed descriptions of the observed prosocial behaviors.

Report **helping** behaviors when a child's peer is in need of either instrumental assistance or information. A helping behavior is described as *instrumental* when a child assists a classmate's goal-directed efforts (e.g., by helping another child to free his or her leg from a string), and as *informing* when a child provides a peer with needed information or explains how to carry out an activity (e.g., by showing a classmate who is struggling to complete a jigsaw puzzle where to place the pieces).

Report **sharing** behaviors when the child gives away material things (e.g. food, a toy) to a peer who has none of this resource and desires or needs it.

Report **comforting** behaviors when a peer displays and/or verbally expresses a negative emotional or physical state; these include *psychological comforting*, when the action is intended to modify the other child's negative internal state (e.g., kissing a classmate who is crying), and *physical comforting*, when the action is intended to soothe another's physical distress (e.g. rubbing the back of a child who is coughing).

Name of the observer: _____

Child's code: _____

Age: _____

Gender: M F

Varieties of Prosocial Behaviors	Observation N°1	Observation N°2	Observation N°3	Observation N°4	Total
	Date: __/__/__	Date: __/__/__	Date: __/__/__	Date: __/__/__	
	Time:	Time:	Time:	Time:	
INSTRUMENTAL HELPING (H)					
INFORMING (H)					
SHARING (S)					
PSYCHOLOGICAL COMFORTING (C)					
PHYSICAL COMFORTING (C)					

Note: H = *Helping behavior*; S = *Sharing behavior*; C = *Comforting behavior*.

Please refer to the following article about the use of the Grid with 2- and 3-year-olds:

Conte, E., Grazzani, I., & Pepe, A. (2018). Social Cognition, Language, and Prosocial Behaviors: A Multitrait Mixed-Methods Study in Early Childhood. *Early Education and Development*, 29:6, 814-830. DOI: 10.1080/10409289.2018.1475820