



THE CENTRE
FOR YOUTH
IMPACT

Part of YMCA George Williams College



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

QTURN

Practitioner Overview

The Youth Rating of Socio-emotional Skills (YRSS)

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Practitioner Overview and Tool: The Youth Rating of Socio-emotional Skills (YRSS)

Tool overview	
What it measures	<p>The tool measures functional mental and behavioural skills (i.e. how young people feel and behave in life) in terms of Emotion Management, Empathy, Problem Solving, Initiative, Teamwork, & Responsibility.</p> <p>Socio-emotional skill growth information can be used to understand young people’s development and the relation of this development to other aspects of provision e.g. quality or how often a young person engages in the provision. It can also inform future planning.</p>
Who does the measuring	<p>It is a self-assessment tool that can be used with young people in any kind of provision. We recommend using the YRSS with young people ages 10 and older.</p>
When to use the tool	<p>Baseline socio-emotional skill information can be used for provision planning purposes (e.g. to tailor provision to the needs of the young people who are attending). The YRSS can also be used at both baseline and shortly after or near the end of provision, in order to assess young people’s socio-emotional skill growth.</p> <p>When using the YRSS to assess a growth in skills, we recommend annual assessments as it takes time for the socio-emotional skills to become embedded in young people’s thinking and behaviours and self-reported measures tend to be less valid than observational measures (like the ARYB tool) due to response bias (young people changing their behaviour or response to meet what they think is desired).</p> <p>If done well, the YRSS can be used to measure change over a relatively short amount of time (e.g. 3 months), as long as expectations are realistic about the amount of change likely to have occurred.</p>
Method	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place each young person’s unique identification number on each survey. • Distribute the surveys to the corresponding young people and ask them to return it to you (or put it in a designated location) after they complete it. • Ask young people to read the instructions and ask any questions they may have. • While they complete the survey, encourage them to ask for clarification about the meaning of any words about which they are uncertain. • Give them no more than 10 minutes to complete the survey. <p>Prompt: Your responses to this survey will help us create the best possible program experiences for young people. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers. We will keep your responses completely confidential, which means no one will ever know how you individually answered the questions.</p>	
Scoring	
<p>Young people’s responses to all items marked by “(R)” should be reverse scored, such that: 1 = 5, 2 = 4, 3 = 3, 4 = 2, and 5 = 1. 2.</p> <p>The mean score across all questions within each section should be calculated to give a single score (ranging from 1 to 5) for each of the 6 aspects, for each young person. For example, to produce a score for Emotion Management, you should calculate the mean score of questions 3-6. The mean score can still be calculated</p>	

even if some questions have been missed as long as there are responses to at least 3 of the 4 questions in each section (but remember to calculate the mean score based only on the number of questions for which young people have actually provided a response).

Analysis

Data collected with the YRSS measurement tool can be entered into the YMCA George William College Data Portal. This will enable you to view change for individuals, cohorts and the results for your whole organisation. The mean scores can be used to inform decisions about the need for future training or to plan provision to address the low scores. If the YRSS is also used as a follow-up measure, then the mean scores can be used to assess socio-emotional skill change from the baseline assessment to the follow-up assessment.