

Theory of Mind (TOM) Test - Respondent's Worksheet

Patient information

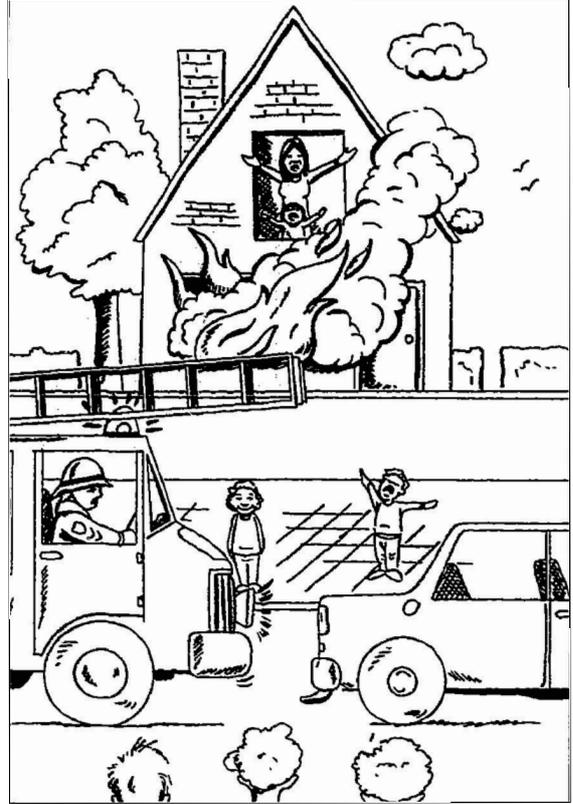
Name: _____ Date: _____
Age: _____ Evaluator: _____

Item 1

Look at the picture on the right closely and answer the questions that follow.

1. What has happened? Can you tell me something about it?

Answer:



2. Who in this picture is afraid?

Answer:

3. Why is this person afraid?

Answer:

4. Who in this picture is happy?

Answer:

5. Why is this person happy?

Answer:

6. Who in this picture is sad?

Answer:

7. Why is this person sad?

Answer:

8. Who in this picture is angry?

Answer:

9. Why is this person angry?

Answer:

Item 2

Your test giver will read you a short story. Listen carefully.

1. Why is Pat crying when father gives him the piece of apple?

Answer:

2. Does father know why Pat is crying?

Answer:

3. Does father know that Pat has bitten his lip when he wanted to eat the apple?

Answer:

Item 3

Listen to your test-giver's story about this picture.

1. What do you think is happening in this picture?

Answer:

2. How does the boy in the back feel?

Answer:

3. How does the boy in the front feel?

Answer:



Item 4

Look at the picture on the right and answer the questions below.

1. What has happened in this picture?

Answer:

2. How do you feel when you hurt yourself?

Answer:

3. Can you see from the girl's face how she really feels?

Answer:

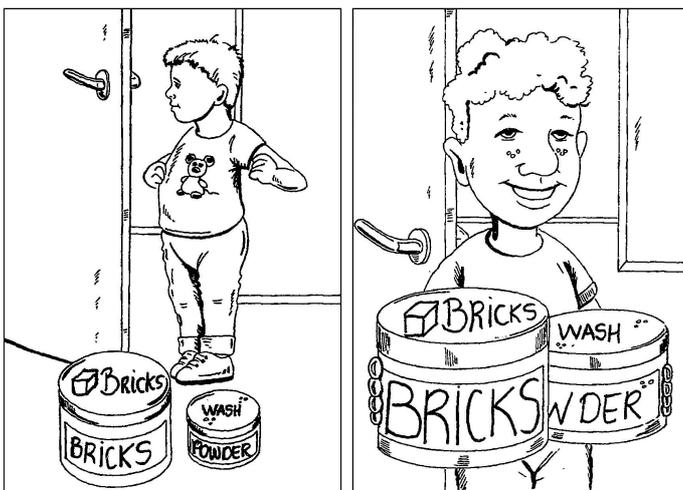
4. Is it possible to look happy, when you have hurt yourself?

Answer:



Item 5

Listen to your test-giver's story about these pictures.



1. Which box will Ben open to play with his bricks (blocks)?

Answer:

2. Which box will Tim open to play with his bricks (blocks)?

Answer:

3. Do you know where the bricks (blocks) really are?

Answer:

Item 6

Listen to what your test-giver says before answering.

1. What does father mean by saying that?

Answer:

2. Why does father say: "It's a pleasure to be here!"

Answer:

Item 7

Listen to what the test giver is saying. Act out their instructions and answer their questions.

1. Pretend to comb your hair.
2. Pretend to brush your teeth.
3. Pretend to act as if you are feeling cold.
4. Answer this question: How did the test-giver know that you are feeling cold?
5. Pretend that you are drinking something that tastes nasty.
6. Answer this question: How did the test-giver know that you are drinking something nasty?
7. Pretend that you are scared.
8. Answer this question: How did the test-giver know that you are scared?

Item 8

This is John. Listen to your test-giver's story about him.

1. Is John able to touch the bike that he dreams about?

Answer:

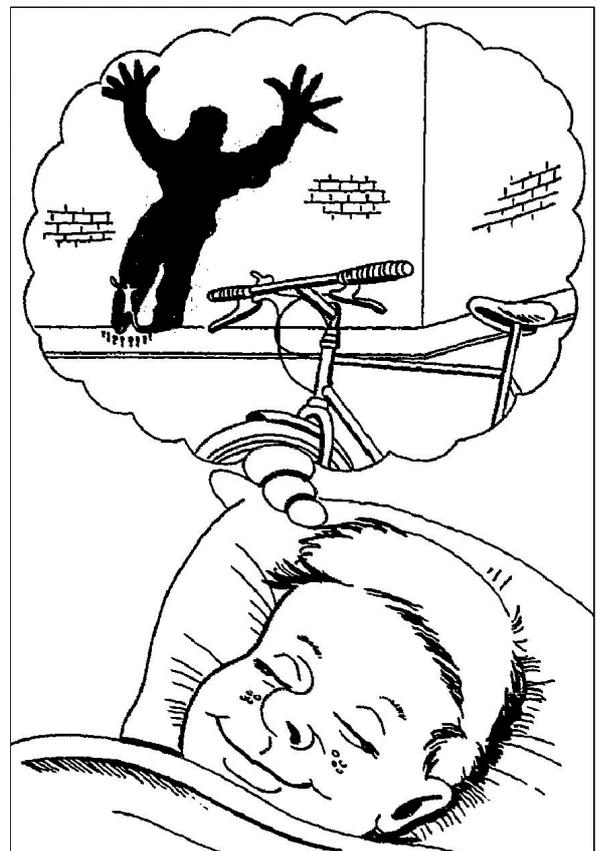
Sometimes John has a frightening dream. Then he dreams about shadows.

2. Does John really see these shadows with his eyes?

Answer:

3. Can somebody else see the shadows or the bike of John's dreams?

Answer:



Item 9

Listen to your test-giver's short story. Then, answer the questions that follow.

1. What does the man mean?

Answer:

2. Is it true what the man says?

Answer:

3. Why does the man say: "Wow, we have nice weather today!"

Answer:

Theory of Mind (TOM) Test - Test Administrator's Sheet

Item 1

Allow the test-taker to evaluate the image and answer the questions.

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	A description of the fire and the people			
2	The person/s who are afraid are the mom and child in the burning house			
3	They are afraid because the house is burning and they are trapped			
4	The happy person is the boy looking at the fire truck			
5	The boy is happy because he likes fire trucks			
6	The person who is sad is the boy in front of house waving at the fire truck			
7	The boy is sad because the fire truck is not yet putting out the fire and there are people in danger			
8	The person who is angry is the fire truck driver			
9	The fire truck driver is angry because there is a car in the way and they cannot put out the fire			
Total				

Item 2

Read this story to the test-taker:

Pat is one year old. He's at home, playing on the floor. Mother has given him a piece of apple. Suddenly, Pat bites his lip and he starts to cry. He throws the piece of apple on the floor. Mother lifts Pat up, comforts him, and puts the piece of apple on the table.

When father arrives at home, mother is on the phone. Father lifts Pat up and hugs him. Then he puts Pat back on the floor, and gives him the piece of apple which is still lying on the table. As soon as Pat sees the piece of apple he starts to cry.

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	Pat bit his lip eating the apple.			
2	Pat's father does not know why he is crying.			
3	Pat's father did not know that Pat bit his lip when he wanted to eat the apple.			
Total				

Item 3

Read the text below to the test-taker while showing them the image. Point to each boy accordingly for the questions:

- The two boys in the front gossip about the other boy.
- Suddenly, the boy in the back approaches them and hears what they are saying.
- The two boys in the front are startled.

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	Any appropriate recap of the story.			
2	Sad, betrayed, similar emotions			
3	Surprised, ashamed, similar emotions			
Total				

Item 4

Allow the test-taker to evaluate the image and answer the questions.

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	The person has fallen and hurt their knee			
2	Pain, sad, angry, frustrated, similar emotions			
3	She looks happy, laughing, similar emotions			
4	No, you cannot look happy when you have hurt yourself			
Total				

Item 5

Read the story below. In the middle, the respondent must answer question 1, before you continue with the rest of the story:

This is Ben. Ben wants to play with his bricks (blocks).

Have the respondent answer Question 1 before continuing.

Ben opens the box of bricks and surprisingly he finds out that it is filled with washing powder (laundry soap). He closes the box and opens the other smaller box. There are his bricks! He takes out some bricks and goes to play with them in his bedroom. Then his brother Tim is entering the room. Tim also wants to play with bricks...

Allow the respondent to answer Questions 2 and 3.

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	The child writes, answers verbally, or points to the box of bricks.			
2	The child writes, answers verbally, or points to the box of bricks.			
3	The child writes, answers verbally, or points to the box of wash powder.			
Total				

Item 6

Read the text below to the test-taker while showing them the image. Point to each boy accordingly for the questions:

Father and mother are at a birthday party. They only know a few people, and think the music is too loud. “Wow” says father, “It’s a pleasure to be here!”

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	Sarcasm, irony, opposite, or similar terms			
2	Sarcasm, irony, saying opposite, joking, humor, or similar ideas			
Total				

Item 7

Instruct the test-taker to do the following instructions and ask them the following questions in order.

1. Pretend to comb your hair.
2. Pretend to brush your teeth.
3. Pretend to act as if you are feeling cold.
4. How can I see that you are feeling cold?
5. Pretend that you drinking something that tastes nasty.
6. How can I see that you think it tastes nasty?
7. Pretend that you are scared.
8. How can I see that you are scared?

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	The child successfully pretends to comb their hair.			
2	The child successfully pretends to brush their teeth.			
3	The child successfully pretends to feel cold.			
4	The child answers that they shivered or made sounds like “brrr”			
5	The child successfully pretends to drink something nasty.			
6	The child answers “ew” or refers to making a disgusted sound or grimace.			
7	The child successfully pretends to be scared.			
8	The child answers by referring to their sounds, facial expression, and body language.			
Total				

Item 8

Read the story below to the respondent:

This is John. John often dreams. Sometimes he dreams about a new bike that he would like to have.

Have the respondent answer question 1 before continuing.

Sometimes John has a frightening dream. Then he dreams about shadows.

Have the respondent answer questions 2 and 3.

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	No, John cannot touch the bike he dreams about.			
2	No, John does not really see the shadows with his eyes.			
3	No, nobody else can see the shadows or the bike John dreams about.			
Total				

Item 9

Read the story below to the respondent:

It is summer. Will and Mike are on vacation. They go out for a bicycle ride. Suddenly, there is a downpour and they have to find shelter in a bus station. There are two men in the bus station who also shelter from the rain. One of the men remarks, "Wow, we have nice weather today!"

If the test-taker has the following responses (or very similar ones), then it is considered a correct answer. As such, tick the box to the right under the TOM Stages columns. Each question will only have 1 corresponding TOM stage.

#	Response	TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3
1	Sarcasm, irony, saying opposite, joking, humor, or similar ideas			
2	No, the man is not telling the truth or is saying the opposite.			
3	The man is being sarcastic or making a joke, so he means that the weather is actually not nice.			
Total				

Subscales

Each correct answer is 1 point, and incorrect or inappropriate answers as 0 points.

Total of correct responses for each TOM Stage for all items:

TOM 1	TOM 2	TOM 3

I. Precursors of Theory of Mind = TOM 1

Children attribute needs, emotions, and other mental states to people and use terms such as 'know', 'remember', and 'think.' They understand that certain stimuli lead to behavior, and that mental states can be inferred from stimulus-behavior links. For example, if someone lost their dog they would be worried, not happy.

- a. Recognition of emotions
- b. Pretense

II. First manifestations of a real Theory of Mind = TOM 2

Children recognize that the mind is separate from and differs from the physical world. They realize that a person can think about an object even though the object is not physically present. They also learn that the mind can represent objects and events accurately or inaccurately. They realize that a representation can be false with respect to a real object or event (false belief task, i.e., Item 5), behavior can be false with respect to a mental state (e.g. when a sad person smiles, i.e., Item 4), and two people's perceptual views or beliefs can differ (perspective taking, i.e., Item 1).

- a. First-order belief
- b. Understanding the belief

III. More advanced aspects of Theory of Mind = TOM 3

Children learn to understand that the mind actively mediates the interpretation of reality. They recognize that prior experiences affect current mental states which in turn affect emotions and social inferences (i.e., Items 6, 9)

- a. Second-order belief
- b. Understanding humor

Total and interpretation

Total TOM score (add all TOM stages together): _____

Total all questions answered correctly. Score range = 95% confidence interval. A child with typical development of theory of mind will have scores that fall into the specified score range for their age group.

Age	Mean	Score range
5-6 years	32	28-36
7-8 years	47	45-50
9-10 years	50	47-53
11-12 years	53	50-56

If the respondent scores below these scores, it is indicative of delayed skill development. Use the incorrect answers as reference, and try to integrate TOM activities into conversations and interactions with students in order to promote TOM development.

Muris, P., Steerneman, P., Meesters, Merckelbach, C. , Horselenberg, R., van den Hogen, T. & van Dongen, L. (1999). The TOM Test: A new instrument for assessing theory of mind in normal children and children with pervasive developmental disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, Vol. 29 (1), p. 67-78. <http://www.autism-community.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/TOM-Test-Reliability.pdf>