ECBI Administration and Scoring

The **Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI)** is a rating scale that measures behavior problems in children ages 2-16. It is completed by parents or caregivers and provides information about the frequency and severity of behavior problems, as well as the extent to which parents find the behavior troublesome. This measure will not give you a diagnosis, but is a good assessment of the severity of disruptive behaviors.

The ECBI is a paper and pencil measure of 36 items that represent typical problem behaviors reported by parents of conduct disordered children. The behaviors are rated on a 7-point scale that indicates how often the behaviors occur, and then a Yes-No problem scale that tells how the parent perceives the behavior. The entire measure typically takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be hand scored in about 2 minutes.

**Administration Instructions**

You will want to administer this early in the case to assess whether the family will meet criteria for the new module and the study.

Give the parent the rating sheet and a writing utensil. (You can give to more than one parent if they are present.)

- If there is more than one child in the home, ask them to identify the child that they feel is the most disruptive, and fill the measure out for that child.
- If the child they identify is not the child you have observed to be a problem, have them fill it out on both children.
- In addition, if they indicate more than one child and are resistant to picking just one, have them fill out on multiple children.
- **If the parents complete the measure on more than one child, consult with your supervisor and Dr. Hecht about how to proceed with the training.**

Explain that the measure has a series of phrases that describe children’s behavior. Ask them to read each item carefully and circle the appropriate number on the test sheet that corresponds to how often the behavior currently occurs. A 1 means that the child *never* exhibits that behavior, and a 7 means the child *always* is exhibiting that behavior. A 4 means *sometimes.*

- If necessary, you can read the items to the parent.
Then, explain that the parent should circle Yes or No to indicate if that behavior is currently a problem for them.

**Scoring Instructions**

The **Intensity Scale** is the frequency of the behavior. The ECBI Intensity Score is calculated by adding all of the circled scores in the “How often does it occur?” column. Record this number in the subtotal space below.

**Missing Items:**
If there are **4 or more** items missing on the Intensity Scale, this scale is not valid and no total score can be derived.
If there are **3 or less** items missing on the Intensity Scale, mark the missing items as a 1, and calculate the total.

The **Problem Scale** is how much the parent perceives the behaviors as a problem, and is calculated by adding up all of the Yes responses in the “Is this a problems for you?” column. Record this number in the subtotal space below.

**Missing Items:**
If there are **4 or more** items missing on the Problem Scale, this scale is not valid and no total score can be derived.
If there are **3 or less** items missing on the Problem Scale, mark the missing items as a No, and calculate the total.

**Inclusion Criteria**
Scores of 131 or higher on the Intensity Scale are considered to potentially have a significant problem. A score of 15 or higher in the Problem Scale indicates that the parent is significantly distressed by the child’s behavior. These will be the cutoff scores for inclusion in the study. So, if a child meets the cutoff score on one or both of these scales, they will be eligible for the study and will receive the Managing Child Behavior Module.

If a child doesn’t make the cutoff, but you believe that they will benefit from the module, discuss this with your supervisor.