

Parental Acceptance and Understanding of Autistic Children Scale (PAUACS)

Scoring Guide:

The PAUACS can be summed to obtain a total score of parental acceptance and understanding or evaluated using its subscales. There are 4 subscales that map onto 4 factors as described in Lee et al. (2024), and the items that contribute to each subscale found below. Asterisks* represent reversed scored items.

Factor 1: Understanding

Assesses parental active understanding of autism, autistic traits and behaviours. High scorers tend to actively seek ways to further their understanding of autism. They are also more likely to prioritize seeking information from autistic people. They also tend to actively question their own perceptions and assumptions.

1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 29, 27

Factor 2: Innate

Assesses parental perceptions of autism as innate. High scorers tend to view their child's autism as innate, evolving, but inherently part of their identity.

5*, 10*, 17*, 18, 23*, 25*

Factor 3: Acceptance

Assesses parental acceptance for their *whole* autistic child. High scorers are more likely to accept their child as they are.

19, 21, 22, 24*, 30

Factor 4: Expectations

Assesses parental expectations for their child's future. High scorers tend to have hopeful expectations around their child thriving as an autistic adult. They are more likely to be flexible in their parenting and provide opportunities for learning from mistakes. They believe it is possible for their child to have a bright future.

2, 4, 9*, 15, 16, 26, 28

Citation:

Lee, J.Y.S., Whittingham, K. & Mitchell, A.E. (2024) Parental acceptance and understanding of autistic children (PAUACS) – an instrument development study. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-024-06630-w>