

Italian validation of three American scales aimed at measuring children's well-being.

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Abstract

This article focuses on the validation in Italian context of three international instruments, which aim at studying child well-being through the assessment of the perception they have of their lives.

The literature review has showed that life satisfaction in childhood has only recently become the focus of work and until now few studies have been conducted in this area, especially in the Italian context.

In our study, the key criteria used in order to choose the correct instrument were:

- Children' direct involvement to obtain their point of view;
- Defined age range (from third to fifth grade of Primary school);
- Free availability of the instruments' versions, because many studies are in specific payment archives;
- Wide validation, by preferring those tested with numerous samples.

The selected instruments (SLSS, MSLSS and BMSLSS) were included in a wider questionnaire.

The final tool used in our study turned out to be composed by:

- demographic variables, in order to explore the socio-economic status of children's family;
- three QoL scales, translated and adapted to the Italian context, investigating the child overall life satisfaction and the specific aspects of his daily life with a series of questions concerning the domains considered fundamental for any child's life (family, friends, school, environment, self);
- some additional questions (concerning the previous five domains) submitted by using '*faces scale*' and '*weather scales*'.

The questionnaire was submitted to 489 children from the third to fifth grade of Primary school in different Tuscany areas in two different studies.