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# The Development and Validation of the Children's Hope Scale FREE

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## Abstract

Assuming that children are goal-oriented, it is suggested that their thoughts are related to two components—agency and pathways. Agency thoughts reflect the exception that children can initiate and sustain action toward a desired goal; pathways thoughts reflect the children's perceived capability to produce routes to those goals. Hope reflects the combination of agentic and pathways thinking toward goals. A six-item dispositional self-report index called the Children's Hope Scale is introduced and validated for use with children ages 8–16. Results suggest that the scale evidences internal consistency, and is relatively stable over retesting. Additionally, the scale exhibits convergent, discriminant, and incremental validity. Limitations and uses of the scale are discussed.

**Keywords:** [hope](#), [agency](#), [pathways](#), [thought](#), [coping](#)

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