

# TPSR Alliance

TPSR Toolbox: Resources for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment

## **TPSR Rubric for Assessing Responsible Behavior**

Paul M. Wright, Ph.D.  
University of Memphis  
2009

## Description

This rubric was developed by Dr. Paul Wright at the University of Memphis to assess student behavior in physical activity settings as they relate to the core levels<sup>1</sup> of the Teaching Personal and Social Responsibility (TPSR: Hellison, 2003). The rubric is also consistent with the behavioral expectations described in the national content standards for K-12 physical education (NASPE, 2004). The case for this instrument's validity is based in its alignment with published descriptions of the TPSR levels and Wright's extensive experience as a TPSR practitioner and researcher.

To assess reliability, the instrument was tested at the Campus School at the University of Memphis in the Fall of 2007. Four pairs of trained upper division physical education majors conducted independent observations (five minute intervals observing a randomly selected student) of fifth grade students engaged in a typical physical education class focusing on soccer skills. The class was taught by a highly qualified teacher. The seventeen students in the class (10 boys; 7 girls) displayed a range of skill levels and behaviors. These students came from diverse backgrounds (8 White; 7 Black; 2 Asian). Percent agreement was calculated for each item based on 20 independent observations conducted by the four pairs of independent observers. Results were as follows: self-control (80%); participation (85%); effort (90%); self-direction (60%); and caring (80%). Only self-direction fell slightly below the common standard of 70% agreement.

Variations of this rubric have subsequently been field tested by Wright to create student self-assessments that can compliment teacher observations/ratings. Wright has used both versions in his own community-based TPSR programs and has found them to be feasible and effective tools for learner assessment and program evaluation. This document contains the rubric itself and a sample scoring guide.

---

<sup>1</sup> Because this rubric has been designed primarily for direct observation of student behavior in physical activity settings, it is not an appropriate tool for assessing Level 5-(transfer outside the gym). Other strategies are recommended to assess that aspect of TPSR such as journals, logs, or interviews with students.

## TPSR Rubric for Assessing Responsible Behavior

Responsible Behavior	Description	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never
Self-control	Student does no harm to others verbally or physically; includes/works well with others; resolves conflicts peacefully if they emerge	3	2	1	0
Participation	Student will try every activity and take on various roles if asked	3	2	1	0
Effort	Student tries hard to master every task and focuses on improvement	3	2	1	0
Self-direction	Student will stay on task without direct instruction or supervision whether working alone or with others; does not seem to follow bad examples or peer pressure	3	2	1	0
Caring	Student will help, encourage others, and offer positive feedback	3	2	1	0

