



[www.psychopathyis.org](http://www.psychopathyis.org)

### What is psychopathy?

Psychopathy is a common disorder that affects as many as 1 in 50 children and adolescents<sup>1</sup>. Affected children show limited prosocial emotions (low empathy, compassion, and remorse), a bold and daring personality, and difficulty inhibiting behaviors<sup>2</sup>. They may deceive, manipulate, exploit, threaten, or steal from others. Sometimes, but not always, they are physically violent. Psychopathy is a spectrum disorder that ranges from mild to extreme and results from atypical structure and function in the brain<sup>3</sup>.

### I am concerned my child may be at risk for psychopathy because I have observed the following traits and/or behaviors in him/her:

- Unusual risk taking, shows little fear in dangerous situations, seems “cold” and does not show affection
- Misbehaves more than peers, including lying, stealing, breaking rules, and/or aggression
- Doesn't seem to care about consequences like getting a time-out or having privileges removed
- Doesn't feel bad or guilty after doing something wrong
- Doesn't seem concerned about other people's feelings
- Acts or feels superior to other people

I completed an online psychopathy screener ([www.psychopathyis.org](http://www.psychopathyis.org)) and my child's score is \_\_\_\_ which places him/her in the top \_\_\_\_% in his/her age category.

I would like a referral to a clinician who is knowledgeable about psychopathy and familiar with (or willing to learn more about) the most effective treatments for this disorder.

### For more information:

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- 1 Tiihonen J et al. (2019) Neurobiological roots of psychopathy. *Mol Psychiatry*
- 2 Viding E, McCrory EJ (2018) Understanding the development of psychopathy: progress and challenges. *Psychol Med* 48(4):566–577.
- 3 Blair RJ, Peschardt KS, Budhani S, Mitchell DG, Pine DS (2006) The development of psychopathy. *J Child Psychol Psychiatry* 47(3-4):262–276.