Child Spatial Anxiety Questionnaire

The following instructions were used to administer the task.

Introduction: “Now I’m going to ask you some questions about what kinds of things make you feel nervous or anxious or tense. Do you know what it means to be nervous? Sometimes people feel nervous when they are worried about something or are afraid they might not know the answer. I want you to tell me how nervous each thing makes you feel. [Demonstrating with the sliding scale.] See, this side means ‘very, very nervous’, this would mean ‘a little nervous’, this means ‘in the middle’, this would mean ‘not very nervous, sort of calm’ and this side means ‘not nervous at all, very calm’. Let’s try one. How nervous do you feel when you’re looking down from the top of the building?” [Allow child to manipulate the slider.] “What if you were really nervous? What if you were only a little nervous? What if you were not nervous at all? [Correct child if necessary.] Good, now let’s get started. Don’t forget that you can put this anywhere you want to show your answer.”

Scoring: Children point to a location anywhere in the sliding scale. Write the location of the slider in inches (nearest ½ inch).

1. How do you feel being asked to say which direction is right or left?
2. How would you feel if your teacher asked you to build this house out of these blocks in 5 min? [Show child card with picture of legos.]
3. How would you feel if you were given this problem: John is taller than Mary, and Mary is taller than Chris. Who is shorter, John or Chris?
4. How do you feel when you are asked to point to a certain place on a map, like this one? [Show card with image of US map.]
5. How do you feel when your teacher asks you whether these shapes are rectangles and why? [Show child card with similar shapes]
6. How do you feel when you have to solve a maze like this in one minute? [Show child card with maze]
7. How do you feel if you are asked to measure something with a ruler?
8. How do you feel when a friend asks you how to get from school to your house?

1 This scale was originally published using a scale that was anchored with 3 points (i.e., smiley faces). Children were encouraged to point at any location on the sliding scale. Recently we have developed a revised version of this scale that requires children to point to one of five discrete faces. The revised scale can be obtained by emailing the authors.
Stimuli for item #2, #4, #5, #6