To apply the **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** to the **Two-Dimensional Self-Respect Scale**(originally the **Self-Liking/Self-Competence Scale** by Tafarodi & Swann, 2001), you can evaluate how interactions with robotic agents specifically impact the two core dimensions of self-esteem: **Self-Liking** and **Self-Competence**.

This dual-dimensional model views self-esteem as the intersection of how much individuals like themselves as social objects (Self-Liking) and how capable they feel in achieving their goals (Self-Competence). The NSIR provides a specialized lens to see how robots support these dimensions for neurodivergent individuals.

1. Enhancing Self-Competence through Predictable Interaction

Self-Competence is the instrumental dimension of self-esteem, rooted in successful manipulation of the environment.

- **Cognitive Mastery:** Use **NSIR Item 3** (*"I think I can share my thinking with the robot without speaking"*) to measure how a robot's predictable interface supports cognitive mastery. For neurodivergent users, successfully communicating with a robot—where human communication might fail—directly boosts perceived competence.
- **Consistent Feedback: NSIR Item 8** (*"I believe that my robot is the same with me as it is with anyone"*) captures the mechanical consistency that allows a user to build reliable skills without the "noise" of social unpredictability. Success in this stable environment reinforces the user's belief in their own efficacy.

2. Supporting Self-Liking via Social Safety

Self-Liking is the affective dimension, reflecting the internalized sense of good or bad based on social approval and belonging.

- **Radical Social Safety:** Use **NSIR Item 7** (*"I feel comfortable undressing in front of my robot"*) to evaluate the robot as a "non-judgmental" presence. High comfort in vulnerable states suggests the robot provides a social space where the user does not feel the "shame" or "wrongness" that often lowers self-liking in neurotypical social settings.
- **Identity Affirmation (Kinship):** Apply **NSIR Item 1** (*"The robot is more like me than anyone else I know"*). Finding kinship with a robot can act as a buffer for self-liking; if the user likes the robot and identifies with it, they may experience an increase in internalized self-worth.

3. Measuring the "Relational Secure Base"

The Two-Dimensional Self-Respect Scale identifies that self-liking often comes from being valued by others.

- **Perceived Empathy: NSIR Item 5** (*"My robot can tell what I am feeling..."*) measures the user's perception of being "seen" and understood. While the robot is a machine,

the *feeling* of being understood can foster the positive self-regard necessary for high self-liking.

- **Long-Term Belonging:** Use **NSIR Item 4** (*"The robot and I will be together forever"*) and **Item 6** (*"I gave my robot a name"*) to assess the robot's role as a stable source of social belonging. A stable social connection, even with a non-human agent, provides the relational continuity that supports a consistent sense of self.

Summary of Integrated Application

Self-Respect Dimension	NSIR Application Item	Impact on Neurodivergent User
Self-Competence	**Items 3 & 8**	Boosts efficacy through successful, predictable communication.
Self-Liking	**Items 1 & 7**	Increases self-worth by providing a non-judgmental social peer.
Social Efficacy	**Item 2 (Staring)**	Reinterprets "abnormal" social behaviors as valid analytical engagement.
Belongingness	**Items 4 & 6**	Fosters identity security through naming and long-term commitment.

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By applying the NSIR to the **Tafarodi & Swann (2001)** model, you can determine if a robot's primary psychological benefit is **functional** (improving what the user can *do*) or **emotional** (improving how the user *feels* about themselves).