



Parent Survey Process

Rating Scale for the Parent Survey

Consistent use of the Rating Scale provides the Parent Visitor objectivity in completing the Parent Survey. Each area of the Parent Survey is to be scored 0, 5, 10 or "Unknown." *This Rating Scale was developed by Betsy Dew in 1976. It was updated by Betsy Dew and Debbie O'Neill in 2000. In 2010, in response to questions from the field, Mylinda Moore and Betsy Dew and the GKI Parent Survey Trainer Team updated language to clarify original intent.*

PS #1...Parent's Childhood Experience

Score:

(0)

- a) No corporal punishment.
- b) Spankings (*less than six times ever, which left no bruises or welts; no implements used*).
- c) Parent was raised with at least one nurturing parent model who was consistently present.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) Spankings, more than six times, whether or not spanked with implements (*for example, belt, stick, switch*).
- b) Other punishments within a culture which created severe pain for child (*for example, kneeling on rice, kneeling on a broom, etc.*).
- c) Parent was raised by one or two families with at least one nurturing parent model (*who may not have been consistently present*).
- d) Witnessed physical abuse of sibling.
- e) Witnessed intimate partner violence of parents.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Parent was physically disciplined to leave bruises, welts or injuries, with or without implements.
- b) Parent was physically disciplined with heavy implements (*for example, belt buckle, "2 x 4," guns, knives, etc.*).
- c) Raised by more than two families (*for example, multiple foster homes*).
- d) Raised by one or more families but with no nurturing parent model.
- e) Extreme emotional/psychological abuse (*for example, locked in a closet or made to sleep in a dog house*).
- f) Has run away from home overnight.
- g) Describes self as "black sheep" of family.
- h) Experienced sexual abuse.
- i) Parent, as a child, was removed from home or abandoned.
- j) Raised in family where one or both parents were alcoholics or drug addicted (whomever parented them as a child).
- k) Parent "doesn't remember" his/her childhood.

PS #2...Lifestyle Behaviors and Mental Health

Score:

(0)

- a) No arrest or one-time misdemeanor offense (*for example, teenage shoplifting*). Do not include any crime against a person.
- b) Parent has never used drugs.
- c) One-time experimental use of any drug.
- d) No alcohol use or occasional use, up to one drink per day if this is not seen as a problem by family (*if seen as a problem, rate as 5*).
- e) Occasional drunkenness, up to once per month if not seen as a problem by family (*if seen as a problem, rate as 5*).
- f) Never required psychiatric care.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) More than one minor traffic violation or record of one minor juvenile or adult crime (*for example, minor theft*).
- b) Parent has not used drugs during pregnancy, but has used drugs more than one time.
- c) Drinking regularly with more than one drink per day, or drunkenness more than once per month (*if seen as a problem by family, rate as 10*).
- d) History of, or currently seeing psychiatrist/psychologist for resolution of minor life crisis; i.e., counseling to improve life, rather than therapy for psychiatric condition; no medication or hospitalization required. Currently experiencing a minor life crisis without receiving counseling but able to carry out activities of daily living.
- e) Parent demonstrates ongoing rehabilitation (*for more than two years*) but with history of prior:
 - 1 Multiple mild offenses/arrests.
 - 2 Crime against a person (*for example, assault and battery, armed robbery*).
 - 3 Prison or jail term.
 - 4 Heavy drug use.
 - 5 Alcoholism or heavy drinking.
 - 6 Mental hospitalization or long-term psychiatric care.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Chronic pattern of known illegal activity (*with or without arrest*).
- b) Current or recent prison term, work release, or house arrest (*within last two years*); (*for example: for driving under influence of alcohol/drugs, assault, theft, burglary, felonies, prostitution, murder, or illegal gang activity*).
- c) Chronic use of any drug, including marijuana, inhalants or illicit use of prescription drugs. "*Chronic*" includes monthly use of drugs.

(d) through (k) continued on next page

Score:

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies)...Continued):

- d) History of recurrent episodes of heavy drug use, even if not currently using *(for example, heroin addict, now reformed, but who has repeatedly reformed and returned to heroin in the past)*.
- e) Any drug use by mother at anytime during pregnancy, from the time of conception, whether knew about pregnancy or not.
- f) Chronic heavy drinking/alcoholism *(within the last two years)*.
- g) History of recurrent episodes of alcoholism, even if presently sober.
- h) Any drinking/drug use, regular or occasional, which results in violent episodes.
- i) Current indications and/or diagnosis of mental illness *(within the last two years)*.
Examples may include:
 - 1 Medication prescribed by psychiatrist or other doctor.
 - 2 Cannot perform significant activities of daily living such as: caring for children, working, self-care.
 - 3 History of hospitalization.
- j) Chronic pattern of psychiatric conditions. Examples may include:
 - 1 Medication prescribed by psychiatrist or other doctor.
 - 2 History of hospitalization.
 - 3 Depression, diagnosed or undiagnosed, which interferes with activities of daily living such as: caring for children, working, self-care, sleeping; and has been recurrent throughout his/her lifetime.
- k) History of diagnosed schizophrenia, sociopathic behavior, bipolar disorder or clinical depression.

PS #3...Parenting Experience

Score:

(0)

- a) Parent shows concern for safety of infant/children.
- b) Parent has not been involved with protective services *(no referrals)*.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) One-time protective services referral of mild abuse; child not placed in foster care or removed from home.
- b) Parent has used, or uses, illegal drugs with child present. *(Does not refer to drug use during pregnancy, which is scored under PS #2)*.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Multiple protective service referrals for abuse/neglect even if child not removed from home.
- b) Protective service referral for serious abuse/death.
- c) Mysterious death of sibling of new infant or child in parent's care.
- d) Children placed in foster care/removed from home.
- e) Child allowed to use any illicit drug.
- f) Child abuse/neglect suspected in previous marriage/relationship for either parent.

Continued

PS #4...Coping Skills and Support System

Score:

(0)

- a) Close to at least one family member, i.e., sees regularly and/or can and does call on them for serious problems.
- b) Happy and content with life at present.
- c) Sees and enjoys people regularly, i.e., once a week or more.
- d) Parent can name more than one lifeline and has actually used them.
- e) Parent has access to phone and transportation.
- f) Is employed or actively seeking work.
- g) Has responsible work history.
- h) Received early (*before end of 12th week*) and consistent prenatal care.

(5) (Rate as 5 if two or more apply):

- a) Not close to family, but does not express hostility.
- b) Discontent with life but sees this as temporary.
- c) Sees and enjoys other people less than once a week.
- d) Parent can name one lifeline only and has actually used that person.
- e) Does not have access to phone and/or transportation.
- f) Not a high school graduate/GED.
- g) Parent demonstrates difficulty in coping with life stresses.
- h) Late prenatal care (*after end of 12th week*), (*automatic 5*), (*refers to care obtained, not attempted*).
- i) Unemployed, not seeking work, though has worked steadily previously.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Not close to family, and expresses hostility.
- b) Very unhappy or depressed with life and sees this as permanent, or does not see immediate end to situation.
- c) Rarely sees other people with little or no enjoyment.
- d) Cannot name a lifeline.
- e) Parent can name lifeline, but has not actually used them or states will not use them.
- f) Parent will not "burden" anyone with problems; feels has to handle by self.
- g) Parent unable to cope with life stresses (*within last 2 years*); (*for example: drug/alcohol use, criminal activity, violence, cognitive impairment or mental illness*).
- h) History of childhood abuse/neglect without resolution.
- i) Lifestyle indicative of limited coping such as prostitution, gang membership
- j) No prenatal care or minimal visits (*less than 6*).
- k) Chronically unemployed. Unable to keep a job.

Continued

PS #5...Stresses

Score:

(0)

- a) Parent describes consistently supportive relationship with partner.
- b) Parent can name nothing that is stressful.
- c) Parents argue seldom, but soon resolve without violence and do not see this as a problem (*if seen as a problem by either parent, rate as 5*).
- d) Finances are not a big problem for the family although they may not have "enough" money.
- e) Parent sees housing as comfortable and safe.

(5) (Rate as 5 if two or more apply, or if one listed under 10 applies):

- a) Parents argue frequently without violence and do not see this as a problem (*if seen as a problem, rate as 10*).
- b) Finances are "tight" but parent feels he/she can "manage."
- c) Recent death of loved one who did not serve as lifeline for parent.
- d) Recent change of job, with history of good work stability, i.e., previous employment for one year or more.
- e) Recent move, but previously in one place for one year or more.
- f) Parents describe living situation as inadequate, but not stressful.
- g) One separation with no current threat of divorce or break up of relationship.
- h) Parent faces multiple crises with good coping and does not feel overwhelmed.

(10) (Rate as 10 if two or more apply):

- a) Parents continually in conflict with, or without, violence.
- b) Parent is very afraid of partner. (*Score given to parent who is fearful*).
- c) Finances cause much stress to parent, (*for example, worries cannot manage, runs out of food, cannot pay rent, etc.*).
- d) Chaotic lifestyle with continual crises which parent feels unable to handle.
- e) Multiple separations and/or currently considering divorce (*end of relationship*).
- f) Recent death of a "significant other"/someone who served as lifeline for parent (*within last year*).
- g) Frequent job changes (*2 or more changes within last year*).
- h) Frequent moves (*2 or more changes within last year*).
- i) Housing described as stressful by parents (*for example, temporary, overcrowded, conflicts, unsafe or homeless*).
- j) Any other stress parent mentions which is continually present in his/her life and with which he/she is unable to cope or does not see hope of changing.

Continued

PS #6...Anger Management Skills

Score:

(0)

- a) Parent responds to anger with no violence.
- b) Parent yells, screams, or leaves when angry, but no physical violence.
- c) Parent demonstrates positive anger management skills.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) Parent throws things when angry, but not at people.
- b) Parent has pushed/hit or caused physical pain when angry but not more than one time ever and did not leave lasting marks.
- c) Parent demonstrates rehabilitation for more than two years, but has history of violent (*physical*) behavior.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Parent throws things at people.
- b) Parent pushes, hits, kicks or causes physical pain when angry (*more than once*) and/or leaves lasting marks (*for example, bruises, black eye, injury*).
- c) Parent has history of criminal violent behavior (*for example, assault, murder, rape*).
- d) Parent breaks up house in uncontrollable rage.
- e) One parent is afraid of violence in spouse/partner, though no history of violence (*score goes to partner*).
- f) Parent states she/he is afraid of losing control when angry.

PS #7...Expectations of Infant's Developmental Milestones and Behaviors

Score:

(0)

- a) Unsure of ages for milestones, but has plan to find out (*parent mentions plans without being asked or prompted; for example, has books, plans to ask doctor or Grandma*).
- b) Expects walking between 9 to 15 months, but will not worry until 15 months.
- c) Expects toilet training to begin at 18 months to 2 years.
- d) Will pick up crying baby within 5 to 10 minutes, or expresses concern regarding possible illness.
- e) Shows concern for physical and emotional needs of baby.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) Any expectation of walking earlier than 9 to 15 months, but is flexible (*for example, this is not essential to parent*).
- b) Any expectation of toilet training beginning earlier than 18 months to 2 years, but is flexible (*for example, this is not essential to parent*).

(c) through (f) continued on next page

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies...Continued):

- c) Any unreasonable expectations of walking earlier than 9 months–later than 15 months
- d) Any unreasonable expectations of toilet training earlier than 18 months–later than 30 months
- e) Tolerant of normal annoying behavior, but worried about spoiling baby.
- f) Expresses concern for needs of baby, but will let baby cry over 10 minutes but less than 30 minutes.
- g) Worried about being unsuccessful parent.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Any rigid expectation of walking/toilet training earlier than above (*i.e., this is very important to parent*).
- b) Intolerance of normal annoying behavior or strongly concerned about spoiling.
- c) Parent says he/she or spouse cannot stand crying baby and will become angry with same.
- d) Parent expresses no concern for needs of baby.
- e) Will let baby cry for 30 minutes or more without checking on infant or expressing concern.
- f) Parent feels that infants and children intentionally misbehave to make parent angry or must be dominated to ensure “respect.”
- g) Parent is unsure of developmental milestones and has no plans to acquire information.

PS #8...Plans for Discipline

Score:

(0)

- a) Plans to teach infant (*up to 12 months*) without physical discipline, (*for example, distracting, removing infant from situation, etc.*).
- b) Physical punishment for children over one (*1*) year not used, or used as secondary response to misbehavior after withdrawal of privileges or “time-out.” When the child is punished physically, no implements or other materials (*spoon, paddle, switch, stick, hot sauce or soap in mouth, kneeling on rice, etc.*) are used.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) Plans to yell at infant or is observed doing so.
- b) For children over one (*1*) year, plans to use, or uses, physical punishment as primary response to misbehavior, but no implements are used, no bruises or welts.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Any physical punishment used for infant 12 months of age or younger.
- b) Shaking of infant.
- c) Implements used on children over one (*1*) year.
- d) Physical punishment leaves bruises, other injuries, or causes significant discomfort.
- e) As a child, parent was physically disciplined to leave bruises or welts, or with implements, and sees this as justified, or as right way to discipline.

Continued

PS #9...Perception of New Infant

Score:

(0)

- a) Parent displays warmth and uses only positive descriptions when talking about baby.
- b) Child's behavior (*crying, fussiness*) viewed as normal part of growth process.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) Parent sees baby as more wakeful, colicky, and irritable than normal.
- b) Baby seen as sometimes difficult, but positives also mentioned.

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Baby's behavior seen by parents as intentional (*for example, "he wants to make me angry, so he cries"*).
- b) Baby seen as having no good points, no positives mentioned.
- c) Baby is described as constantly difficult, or so perceived by parent(s).
- d) Baby seen as deserving or physical punishment.

PS #10...Bonding and Attachment

Score:

(0)

- a) Baby is very much wanted, whether planned or unplanned.
- b) Parent displays warmth when talking about baby.
- c) Child rearing looked upon as positive life change.
- d) Parents are married.

(5) (Rate as 5 if one or more applies):

- a) Baby is wanted, but is premature, requiring extended hospital stay.
- b) Parent now feels happy about baby and is making changes in lifestyle to accommodate the baby, but initially was not happy or considered discontinuing pregnancy or considered adoption.
- c) Parent is single, separated, divorced or widowed (*for common-law or same-sex marriage, follow the laws of your state or province*).
- d) Baby is separated from parent for prolonged period (*for example, longer than one week due to hospitalization of parent or infant, due to absence of parent, incarceration or military service of parent, etc*).

(10) (Rate as 10 if one or more applies):

- a) Baby is unwanted, i.e., not coming at good time in parent's life and parent unsure if able to handle situation.
- b) Baby must have certain characteristics if parent is going to love her/him (*for example, certain sex, looks, personality, etc.*).
- c) Parent is not the natural father of baby, whether or not he states that he wants the baby.
- d) Baby seen as burden on lifestyles.
- e) No positive statements made about pregnancy, or child rearing.
- f) Baby with many medical problems and/or physical anomalies.
- g) Expects baby to improve relationship, (*for example, make Mom or Dad responsible*).