

New Creature Counseling
Client Background Survey
(ages 1-4)
Parents' Form

Name of child: _____ Age: _____ Date: _____

Name of parent providing information: _____

Purpose of this questionnaire: This survey obtains a comprehensive picture of your child's background. In counseling, records are necessary, since they permit a more thorough dealing with one's problems. By completing these questions as fully and as accurately as you can, you will facilitate your child's therapeutic program. You are requested to answer these routine questions in your own time instead of using up actual therapy time. It is understandable that you might be concerned about what happens to the information about your child because much or all of this information is highly personal. Case records are strictly confidential. NO OUTSIDER IS PERMITTED TO SEE YOUR CHILD'S CASE RECORD WITHOUT PARENTAL PERMISSION.

If you do not desire to answer a question, merely write "Do not care to answer."

I. Presenting Problems:

- a. What is currently concerning you about your child or family?
- b. When did the problem(s) start?
- c. What else was happening in the family about that time?
- d. Do you think you've contributed to the problem(s) in any way? Explain.
- e. What change(s) have you noticed in your family since this problem began?
- f. How have you tried to correct the problem(s) in the home?
- g. Do all caretakers see the problem the same way? Explain.
- h. What other professionals and agencies have been involved in the problem (e.g., psychological assessment, consultation, counseling)?

II. Pre-School Information:

- a. What pre-school or daycare does the child attend?
- b. How would you describe your child's feelings about pre-school?
- c. How well is your child behaving at pre-school?

III. Significant Interpersonal Relationships:

- a. How is this child different from your other children?
- b. Who are the important adults in your child's life?
- c. How does he/she get along with each of them?
- d. Who regularly disciplines the child? How?
- e. Is there disagreement between caretakers over discipline?
- f. How would you describe your child?

IV. Developmental History:

- a. Is there anything unusual about your child's early development?
 - a.i. complications at birth
 - a.ii. motor development
 - a.iii. language development
 - a.iv. social development
- b. What medications is your child presently taking? Who prescribed them?

- c. Describe what you know about your child's sexual activities and experiences.
- d. Has your child been emotionally, sexually, or physically abused? If so, give details.

V. Background:

- a. How often does your child attend church?
- b. What church does your child currently attend?
- c. How does your child feel about church attendance and/or God?
- d. What is your child's ethnic background?
- e. Is your child's cultural/racial heritage important in daily life?
- f. How often is your child unfairly treated because of cultural/racial heritage?
- g. What type of home does your child live in? ___apartment, ___trailer, ___house, ___condo, ___other:
- h. How many years has your child lived in this home?
- i. Name all people and list ages who currently live in this home.
- j. How would you describe most of the people who live in your child's neighborhood?
 - j.i. ___mostly poor people (unemployed or on public assistance)
 - j.ii. ___mostly factory workers or manual laborers
 - j.iii. ___a mixed group of people with different occupations
 - j.iv. ___business people (clerks, managers)
 - j.v. ___professionals (doctors, lawyers)

- k. During most of childhood with whom has your child lived?
 - k.i. ☐ Both biological parents
 - k.ii. ☐ Parent and step-parent
 - k.iii. ☐ single parent
 - k.iv. ☐ adoptive or foster parents
 - k.v. ☐ relatives
 - k.vi. ☐ other:
- l. How would you describe the home in which your child is growing up?
 - l.i. ☐ poverty level (not enough money)
 - l.ii. ☐ working class (barely enough money)
 - l.iii. ☐ middle class (a little extra money)
 - l.iv. ☐ upper middle class (some extra money)
 - l.v. ☐ upper class (a lot of extra money)

VI. The Child's Mother:

- a. Mother's occupation:
- b. What is the highest level of education earned by the mother?
- c. What is the mother like when she sets rules?
 - c.i. ☐ very strict
 - c.ii. ☐ strict
 - c.iii. ☐ average
 - c.iv. ☐ easy going
 - c.v. ☐ very easy going
- d. How does the mother treat the child?
 - d.i. ☐ very cold and rejecting
 - d.ii. ☐ somewhat cold
 - d.iii. ☐ average
 - d.iv. ☐ somewhat warm
 - d.v. ☐ very warm and loving
- e. Does the mother have any mental or emotional problems?
- f. Does the mother have a present or past history of alcohol abuse?
- g. Does the mother have a present or past history of drug abuse?
- h. Does the mother have financial problems?
- i. Is she often angry for little or no reason?

- j. Is she having any legal trouble?
- k. Is the mother often ill?
- l. Does the mother have problems with her marriage?
- m. Was she physically violent with the child on more than one occasion recently?
- n. Was she physically violent with another member of your family on more than one occasion recently?
- o. How well do the mother and the child get along?
 - o.i. ____ do not get along at all
 - o.ii. ____ not very well sometimes
 - o.iii. ____ average
 - o.iv. ____ fairly well
 - o.v. ____ very well

VII. The Child's Father

- a. Father's occupation:
- b. What is the highest level of education earned by the father?
- c. What is the father like when he sets rules?
 - c.i. ____ very strict
 - c.ii. ____ strict
 - c.iii. ____ average
 - c.iv. ____ easy going
 - c.v. ____ very easy going
- d. How does the father treat the child?
 - d.i. ____ very cold and rejecting
 - d.ii. ____ somewhat cold

- d.iii. ____ average
- d.iv. ____ somewhat warm
- d.v. ____ very warm and loving

- e. Does the father have any mental or emotional problems?
- f. Does the father have a present or past history of alcohol abuse?
- g. Does the father have a present or past history of drug abuse?
- h. Does the father have financial problems?
- i. Is he often angry for little or no reason?
- j. Is he having any legal trouble?
- k. Is the father often ill?
- l. Does the father have problems with her marriage?
- m. Was he physically violent with the child on more than one occasion recently?
- n. Was he physically violent with another member of your family on more than one occasion recently?
- o. How well do the father and the child get along?
 - o.i. ____ do not get along at all
 - o.ii. ____ not very well sometimes
 - o.iii. ____ average
 - o.iv. ____ fairly well
 - o.v. ____ very well

VIII. The Child:

- a. How well does the child get along with brothers and sisters?
 - a.i. ____ does not get along at all

- a.ii. ____ not very well
 - a.iii. ____ average
 - a.iv. ____ better than most brothers and sisters
 - a.v. ____ very well
- b. Do any siblings have emotional problems?
- c. Do any siblings have learning problems?
- d. Do any of the children have epilepsy or brain damage?
- e. Do any siblings have past or present history of alcohol abuse?
- f. Do any siblings have past or present history of drug abuse?
- g. Do any siblings have trouble with the law?
- h. How would you describe the child?
 - h.i. ____ unemotional or neutral
 - h.ii. ____ usually cool and distant
 - h.iii. ____ like most people
 - h.iv. ____ more friendly than most
 - h.v. ____ very warm and friendly
- i. Does the child have a strong group of friends?
- j. How would you describe the child?
 - j.i. ____ unhappy
 - j.ii. ____ less happy than most
 - j.iii. ____ average
 - j.iv. ____ fairly happy
 - j.v. ____ very happy
- k. How well does the child get along with friends and/or classmates?
 - k.i. ____ does not get along at all
 - k.ii. ____ not very well
 - k.iii. ____ average
 - k.iv. ____ better than most children
 - k.v. ____ very well

- l. Has the child failed any grades in school?
- m. Did the child ever receive special education services at school?
- n. How well does the child get along with teachers?
 - n.i. ____ very poorly
 - n.ii. ____ not very well
 - n.iii. ____ average
 - n.iv. ____ better than average
 - n.v. ____ very well

IX. Medical History:

- a. Circle any that the child's blood relatives (brothers, sisters, mother, father, grandparents) has ever had:
 - a.i. accident proneness
 - a.ii. anemia
 - a.iii. alcoholism
 - a.iv. arthritis/gout
 - a.v. cancer
 - a.vi. deafness
 - a.vii. diabetes
 - a.viii. epilepsy
 - a.ix. glaucoma
 - a.x. heart disease
 - a.xi. hypertension
 - a.xii. kidney stones
 - a.xiii. mental health problems
 - a.xiv. obstetric problems
 - a.xv. stroke
 - a.xvi. tuberculosis
- b. Has the child had any of the following illnesses?
 - b.i. mumps
 - b.ii. chickenpox
 - b.iii. whooping cough
 - b.iv. rheumatic fever
 - b.v. scarlet fever
 - b.vi. asthma
 - b.vii. pneumonia
 - b.viii. ear infections
 - b.ix. arthritis/rheumatism
 - b.x. diabetes
 - b.xi. epilepsy

- b.xii. heart disease
- b.xiii. hypertension
- b.xiv. kidney disease
- b.xv. liver disease
- b.xvi. hepatitis
- b.xvii. thyroid diseases
- b.xviii. tuberculosis
- b.xix. cancer
- c. Has the child ever broken any bones?
- d. Has the child ever had a transfusion?
- e. Does the child have any allergies?
- f. Does the child have any adverse reactions to food?

X. Behaviors

Below are a series of phrases that describe children's behavior. Please put the number in the blank that describes how often the behavior currently occurs with your child. Use this scale.

Never = 1

Seldom = 2

Sometimes = 3

Often = 4

Always = 5

1. Dawdles in getting dressed ____
2. Dawdles or lingers at mealtime ____
3. Has poor table manners ____
4. Refuses to eat food presented ____
5. Refuses to do chores when asked ____
6. Slow in getting ready for bed ____
7. Refuses to go to bed on time ____
8. Does not obey house rules on his own ____
9. Refuses to obey until threatened with punishment ____
10. Acts defiant when told to do something ____
11. Argues with parents about rules ____
12. Gets angry when doesn't get his own way ____
13. Has temper tantrums ____
14. Sassses adults ____
15. Whines ____
16. Cries easily ____
17. Yells or screams ____

18. Hits parents ____
19. Destroys toys and other objects ____
20. Steals ____
21. Lies ____
22. Teases or provokes other children ____
23. Verbally fights with friends ____
24. Verbally fights with sisters and brothers ____
25. Physically fights with friends his/her own age ____
26. Physically fights with sisters and brothers ____
27. Constantly seeks attention ____
28. Interrupts ____
29. Is easily distracted ____
30. Has short attention span ____
31. Fails to finish tasks or projects ____
32. Has difficulty entertaining self alone ____
33. Has difficulty concentration on one thing ____
34. Is overactive or restless ____
35. Wets the bed ____

XI. Is there anything else you feel I should know?