TABLE 3

LIST OF MEASURES PROPOSED FOR THE 36-MONTH CHILD AND FAMILY ASSESSMENTS
EARLY HEAD START NATIONAL EVALUATION

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Parenting and the Home Environment			
Parental distress Parent-child relationship (dysfunctional interaction)	Parenting Stress Index-Short Form (Parental Distress and Parent-child Dysfunctional Interaction subscales) (Abidin 1995)	Parent Interview	Has shown treatment effects (K. Barnard, personal communication)
Knowledge of child health and development	Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (Empathic Awareness of Children's Needs and Developmental Expectations of Children subscales) (Bavolek 1984)	Parent Interview	Scores should reflect parents' knowledge of child development, which EHS programs seek to improve
Quality of the home environment Reading and language activities	Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) (Bradley and Caldwell 1984) (NLSY short form; preschool version)	Parent Interview and Interviewer observations	Related to child outcomes in large number of studies; comparability with many other child development studies
Parent-child activities (activities to encourage language development, literacy, physical activities and experiences of outside world)	Selected items adapted from the Adult Literacy Study (Snow 1991) and Family Routines Questionnaire (Boyce et al. 1983).	Parent Interview	Important dimensions of parenting that EHS may affect
Separations from child	Ever separated overnight; number of separations lasting a week or more; and reason for separation	Parent Interview	Important mediator of parent-child relationship and children's well-being; also, an indicator of child abuse or neglect
Television viewing	Number of hours the TV is on during a weekend day	Parent Interview	Important dimension of parenting that EHS may affect
Family routines surrounding child's bedtime and TV viewing (routine adherence)	Selected items developed by Columbia University and MPR. TV routines, child bedtime routines	Parent Interview	Routines important for children and for developing economic self-sufficiency; EHS may affect this as it works with families
Parental discipline--use of reasoning and developmentally appropriate approaches	Selected items adapted from the HOME (Bradley and Caldwell 1984), Infant Health and Development Program evaluation (Brooks-Gunn et al. 1995), and Hispanic HOME (Brooks-Gunn et al. 1996); vignettes and incidence of spanking in previous week	Parent Interview	Important dimension of parenting that EHS may affect

TABLE 3 *(continued)*

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Parent-Child Relationship			
Parenting dimensions: Parental sensitivity or insensitivity--intrusiveness, detachment, and negative regard; positive regard; cognitive stimulation (teaching strategies and quality of assistance in problem-solving) Child dimensions: Curiosity; exploratory competence (symbolic play, sustained attention with objects, enthusiasm, persistence in problem solving); engagement of parent; self-regulation	Coding from videotapes of parent and child engaged in semi-structured tasks. Proposed tasks: 3-bag with book Problem-solving: puzzle task (child with parent)	Coding of videotapes	Improving the parent-child relationship is a major focus of EHS programs and an important outcome to measure. NOTE: This list includes all of the primary constructs that could be coded from the planned tasks. The budget does not include resources for coding; we would need to apply for outside funding to support coding of various constructs.
Parental Characteristics			
Parent's depression	CES-Depression scale -Short form	Parent Interview	Critical mediator of child outcomes.

TABLE 3 *(continued)*

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Relationship with Father and other Adults[a]			
Demographic characteristics of father	Father's current economic activity; education level of new father-figure	Parent Interview	Important mediator
Relationship between mother and father	Mother's current relationship with biological father and father-figure	Parent Interview	Important outcome and potential mediator of EHS
Contact between child and father	Whether father lives with child and/or in household with mother and child; how long father has lived with mother since child's second birthday; whether father has had any contact with child since child's second birthday; how often child has seen father in previous three months; how often father looked after child while mother did other things in past month.	Parent Interview	Important outcome and potential mediator of EHS
Nonresident biological father's support for child	How often father has helped buy toys, clothes, or presents for child; paid for medical insurance or care; or given the mother extra money to help out Whether the mother has a new legal, an informal, or no child support agreement and date of new agreement Monthly amount father is supposed to pay, and number of times father has paid under formal agreement	Parent Interview	Important outcome and potential mediator of EHS
Family Functioning			
Number of adults and children in family, and their relationship to focus child	Items developed by MPR	Parent Interview	Needed for stability of child's environment and to calculate poverty status of household
Presence of the mother's spouse or partner	Item developed by MPR	Parent Interview	Important family structure variable related to economic and child well-being
Family conflict	Family Environment Rating Scale (Moos and Moos 1976)	Parent Interview	A very short measure of family conflict that is a mediator for child and family outcomes

TABLE 3 *(continued)*

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Stressful life events	Selected items adapted from the Stressful Life Events scale (Belsky and Crnic 1990) and stressful life experiences scale used in the JOBS evaluation, and children's experiences of stress and violence, using FACES items	Parent Interview	Important mediators

TABLE 3 *(continued)*

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Child Care Use			
Type of child care currently used Age child began current care arrangement Length of time in nonparental child care per week Stability (Number of different current arrangements and number of other arrangements since PSI)	Selected items adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY), National Child Care Survey 1990 (NCCS), Interactions and Developmental Processes study (MPR/Columbia study), and the evaluation of the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program	Parent Interview	Quality and stability of child care are a major focus of EHS; also important mediators for children
Age of current caregiver	Whether caregiver is under 18 years or over 60 years		
Cost of current nonrelative provider			
Parent's relationship with current nonrelative provider	Parent-Caregiver Relationship Scale (Items selected from the caregiver-parent relationship subscale based on alphas in the Hawaii Open Doors study sample) (Elicker 1996; Howes et al. 1995)	Parent Interview	Important focus and outcome of EHS

TABLE 3 *(continued)*

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Child Care Quality			
Quality of the caregiving environment	Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS; Harms et al. 1990) Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS; Harms and Clifford 1989)	Interviewer observation of child care setting and child care provider	Key measure of quality used in many studies; can benchmark this study
Stability of the child care setting (child care centers)	Turnover of providers in the child's classroom; number of adults child interacts with in a typical week; number of different classrooms child has been in; amount of time main provider has cared for child	Center director interview	Important dimension of quality and is related to child's ability to develop strong attachment to main caregiver
Caregiver's education, training, earnings from child care, and commitment to the child care profession	Items developed by MPR	Caregiver interview	Key structural measures of quality
Caregiver's relationship with parents	Parent-Caregiver Relationship Scale (Items selected from the caregiver-parent relationship subscale based on alphas in the Hawaii Open Doors study sample) (Elicker 1996; Howes et al. 1995)	Caregiver interview	Important focus and outcome of EHS
Caregiver's sensitivity, harshness, and detachment	Arnett Scale of Caregiver Behavior (Arnett 1989)	Interviewer observation of child care provider	Caregiver attributes strongly linked with quality of care
Caregiving values and beliefs	Parental Modernity Scale (Schaefer and Edgerton 1985; 10 items selected from the traditional authoritarian beliefs and progressive democratic beliefs subscales based on alphas in the NICHD sample)	Caregiver interview	Moderator of caregiver behavior and child outcomes; may be important for culturally diverse sample; used in NICHD Study; have parent report on same measure
Quality of caregiving directed toward focus child	Time-sample observations based on the Observer's Ratings of the Caregiving Environment (NICHD Study of Early Child Care 1992) and the Adult Involvement Scale (Howes and Smith 1995; and Howes and Stewart 1987)	Interviewer observation of child care provider and focus child	Measures specific caregiver interactions with focus child
Caregiver's relationship with child	Student-Teacher Relationship Scale	Caregiver report	Important outcome of EHS and mediator of child outcomes

TABLE 3 *(continued)*

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Child's Socioemotional Functioning			
Orientation toward parent; engagement Orientation toward examiner; engagement	Bayley Behavioral Rating Scale Coded from videotapes	Interviewer observation during home visit Videotaped parent-child tasks	Important outcomes of EHS
Emotional regulation	Bayley Behavioral Rating Scale	Interviewer observation during home visit	Important outcome of EHS
Behavioral problems	Child Behavior Checklist (Achenbach)--toddler version; aggressive subscale and additional items most strongly associated with need for clinical mental health services	Parent Interview Caregiver report	Important predictor of later aggression, inattention, and hyperactivity; need the shorter measure to save time
Child's Cognitive and Language Development			
Cognitive functioning	Bayley Scales of Infant Development-II; (Mental Development Index)	Direct child assessment during home visit	Important outcome of EHS; needed for growth curve analysis
Receptive language	Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - III (PPVT-III) Test de Vocabulario en Imagenes Peabody (TVIP)	Direct child assessment during home visit	Important outcome of EHS
Curiosity	Coded from videotaped tasks	Videotaped parent-child tasks (puzzle completion and free play)	Important outcome of EHS
Sustained attention with objects, enthusiasm, persistence in problem-solving	Coded from videotaped tasks	Videotaped parent-child tasks (puzzle completion)	Important outcome of EHS
Child's attention/arousal during assessment	Bayley Behavioral Rating Scale	Interviewer observation during home visit	Important outcome of EHS

TABLE 3 *(continued)*

Construct	Recommended Measures	Data Collection Method	Rationale
Child's Physical Health			
Child's health status	National Health Interview Study	Parent Interview	Important mediator
Hospitalizations for accidents, injuries, dehydration, asthma, pneumonia, ear infection, or surgery	Selected items adapted from the National Health Interview Study (NHIS; Kaplan and Camacho 1983) and National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Force Behavior-Youth Cohort (NLSY)	Parent Interview	Important outcome of EHS; provides measures comparable to national surveys
Use of safety precautions to reduce risk of accidents and unintentional injury — auto safety only	Item developed by MPR	Parent Interview	Important outcome of EHS; should be affected by home visits.

[a]The series of questions about fathers and father-figures has been adapted to cover mothers and mother-figures when the father is the child's primary caregiver. We use the term father in these tables for simplicity.

SOURCE Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., and Columbia University, June 18, 1997. Updated October 29, 1998.