



Parenting Interactions with Children

Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes

INSTRUCTIONS: Look closely to see behaviors in a quiet parent. Frequency is more important than complexity, but complexity often includes several examples.

SCORING: 0 "Absent"—no behavior observed
 1 "Barely"—brief, minor, or emerging behavior
 2 "Clearly"—definite, strong, or frequent behavior



AFFECTION

Warmth, physical closeness, and positive expressions toward child

#	Parent ...	Observation guidelines	Absent	Barely	Clearly
1	speaks in a warm tone of voice	Parent's voice is positive in tone and may show enthusiasm or tenderness. A parent who speaks little but very warmly should be coded highly.	0	1	2
2	smiles at child	Parent directs smiles toward child, but parent and child do not need to be looking at each other when smile occurs. Includes small smiles.	0	1	2
3	praises child	Parent says something positive about child characteristics or about what child is doing. A "thank you" can be coded as praise.	0	1	2
4	is physically close to child	Parent is within easy arm's reach of child, comfortably able to soothe or help. Consider context: Expect more closeness for book reading than for playing house.	0	1	2
5	uses positive expressions with child	Parent makes a positive verbal statement that is not praise for a specific behavior, e.g., says "I love you" or uses a nickname or an affectionate term like "Sweetheart."	0	1	2
6	is engaged in interacting with child	Parent is actively involved together <i>with</i> child, not just with activities or with another adult.	0	1	2
7	shows emotional warmth	Parent shows enjoyment, fondness, or other positive emotion about child and directed to child. (Note: Includes verbal but emphasis on nonverbal.)	0	1	2

COMMENTS:

Affection total: