



## 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 says positive things or uses words like "honey," "kiddo," or an affectionate nickname. (Note: Emphasis on verbal expressions.)	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:**