



Caregiver Interaction Scale **Arnett, 1989**

Evaluation Tool
Smart Start Evaluation Team

FPG Child Development Institute
UNC-Chapel Hill

CIS Clarifications
1999 Child Care Study

General:

- Be sure to note examples of behaviors on your score sheet as you see them during the observation to make rating more accurate
- When scoring, it may help to think of the word "true" at the end of each rating descriptor (e.g., not at all true, somewhat true).
- Because the words "somewhat" and "quite a bit" may sound very similar to some people, here's some help. Think of "not at all" and "very much" as representing the 2 endpoints of a continuum, with "somewhat" and "quite a bit" as points equidistant between the 2 ends.

Item 4. Interpret this item to mean that the teacher places an overly strong focus on obedience. If the teacher values obedience a normal amount or less, the score is "1." If you believe she values obedience more than normal, then you must decide whether it's somewhat high, quite a bit high, or very much high.

Item 7. Interpret "misbehavior" very broadly; for example, a rule can be explained if children want to take off their shoes and the caregiver says no. If there are absolutely no such incidences during the observation, you may score this item as "Not Applicable."

Item 8. To credit the teacher for this, you must hear the teacher say something to encourage children to try something new. Just placing new, interesting materials in the classroom is not enough. "New experiences" should be interpreted broadly to include things like reading a new book, playing a new game, etc.

Item 9. (everyone's favorite) It may help to remember that this item is measuring whether the teacher is too permissive. If you believe the teacher uses a normal amount of control (or even uses too much control), then the score is "1." If you believe the teacher is too permissive, then you must decide whether it's "somewhat" "quite a bit" or "very much" too permissive.

Item 15. It may help to remember that this item measures the teacher's permissiveness. Although the word "reprimand" may have negative connotations, do not interpret it negatively. If the teacher intervenes when children misbehave, then the score is "1." If you do not observe any misbehavior (broadly interpreted, see clarifications to Item 7), score this item "1." If you see children misbehaving without any intervention from the teacher, then you need to decide whether she "sometimes" "quite a bit" or "very much" doesn't reprimand children when they misbehave.

Item 17. If you do not observe any punishment during the observation, you should score this item as a 1

Item 19. Pro-social behavior includes behavior toward adults and other children.

Item 23. If the teacher provides the "right amount" of supervision (or even supervises them too closely), the score is "1." If the teacher does not supervise children close enough, then you must decide to what degree she does not supervise closely.

Caregiver Interaction Scale (CIS) Subscale Items

Sensitivity: 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 19, 25

Harshness: 2, 4, 10, 12, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26

Detachment: 5, 13, 21, 23

Permissiveness: 9, 15, 18 (R)

Caregiver Interaction Scale (Arnett, 1989)

Center name _____ Date of observation _____

Teacher name _____ Data collector initials _____

	not at all true	somewhat true	quite a bit true	very much true
1. Speaks warmly to the children	1	2	3	4
2. Seems critical of the children	1	2	3	4
3. Listens attentively when children speak to her	1	2	3	4
4. Places high value on obedience	1	2	3	4
5. Seems distant or detached from the children	1	2	3	4
6. Seems to enjoy the children	1	2	3	4
7. When the children misbehave, explains the reason for the rule they are breaking	1	2	3	4
8. Encourages the children to try new experiences	1	2	3	4
9. Doesn't try to exercise much control over the children	1	2	3	4
10. Speaks with irritation or hostility to the children	1	2	3	4
11. Seems enthusiastic about the children's activities and efforts	1	2	3	4
12. Threatens children in trying to control them	1	2	3	4
13. Spends considerable time in activity not involving interaction with the children	1	2	3	4
14. Pays positive attention to the children as individuals	1	2	3	4
15. Doesn't reprimand children when they misbehave	1	2	3	4
16. Talks to children on a level they can understand	1	2	3	4
17. Punishes the children without explanation	1	2	3	4
18. Exercises firmness when necessary	1	2	3	4
19. Encourages children to exhibit prosocial behavior, e.g. sharing, helping	1	2	3	4
20. Finds fault easily with children	1	2	3	4
21. Doesn't seem interested in the children's activities	1	2	3	4
22. Seems to prohibit many of the things that children want to do	1	2	3	4
23. Doesn't supervise the children very closely	1	2	3	4
24. Expects the children to exercise self control; e.g., to be undistruptive for group, provider-led activities, to be able to stand in line calmly	1	2	3	4
25. When talking to children, kneels, bends, or sits at their level to establish better eye contact	1	2	3	4
26. Seems unnecessarily harsh when scolding or prohibiting children	1	2	3	4