

Nurturing Skills Competency Scale (NSCS-3.0*)

Parents and their Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

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Long Version

Check One:
Pretest _____
Posttest _____

* Items on Version 3.0 of the NSCS have been updated, added or revised in each of the six construct areas.
This inventory can only be scored online at AssessingParenting.com.

PLEASE PRINT:

1. Date Inventory was administered: _____ Name of person administering Inventory: _____

2. Last Name (or agency ID number): _____ 3. Middle Initial: ____ 4. First Name: _____

Agency Name _____

City _____

State _____

Directions: Please circle the letter of your response in each item AND write the letter in the space provided. For example, for item #6, if you are Female, circle the letter b, and write the letter b in the space provided. Answer all the items.

PART A – About Me

5. Birthday: _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

6. Gender: _____
a. Male d. Transgender Woman
b. Female e. Other: _____
c. Transgender Man

7. Race/Nationality: _____
a. White f. Pacific Islander
b. Black g. Bi-racial
c. Asian h. Multi-racial
d. Hispanic i. Other
e. Native American

Nationality: _____

8. Marital Status: _____
a. Single
b. Married
c. Unmarried Partners
d. Separated/Divorced
e. Widow/Widower

9. Number of children you have: _____ 9. _____

10. Highest grade you completed: _____
a. Grade School
b. Middle School (grades 7 & 8)
c. Some High School (grades 9 -11)
d. High School Graduate
e. Working on or Completed GED
f. Two Year Tech School
g. Some College
h. College Graduate
i. Post Graduate or above

11. Current Employment-School status: _____
a. Employed full-time
b. Going to school full-time
c. Employed part-time
d. Going to school part-time
e. Both going to school and working
f. I am a stay-at-home Mom or Dad
g. Currently unemployed and not going to school
h. Retired
i. Other

12. Annual Household Income: _____
a. Under \$15,000 e. \$40,001 to \$60,000
b. \$15,001 to \$25,000 f. Over \$60,000
c. \$25,001 to \$30,000 g. I don't know
d. \$30,001 to \$40,000

13. Are or were you and/or your partner in the military? _____
a. Yes, only me
b. Yes, only my partner
c. Yes, both of us
d. No

14. As a child, did you experience any type of physical, emotional or sexual abuse by someone outside of your family? _____
a. Yes
b. No

15. As a child, did you experience any type of physical, emotional or sexual abuse by someone inside of your family? _____
a. Yes
b. No

PART B – About My Childhood

As a child between the ages of 4 to 18, did you:

16. Ever feel that no one in your family loved you or thought you were special? 16. ____
a. Yes
b. No
17. Ever feel your needs were ignored? 17. ____
a. Yes
b. No
18. Ever feel that either of your parents used street drugs, abused alcohol, or misused prescription drugs? 18. ____
a. Yes
b. No
19. Feel the quality of your relationship with your mother or mother figure was: 19. ____
a. Very Good
b. Good
c. Bad
d. Very Bad
20. Feel the quality of your relationship with your father or father figure was: 20. ____
a. Very Good
b. Good
c. Bad
d. Very Bad
21. Ever feel your mother or mother figure was physically, verbally or sexually abused by her partner? 21. ____
a. Yes, and I witnessed the abuse
b. Yes, but I didn't witness the abuse
c. No
22. Ever feel your father or father figure was physically, verbally or sexually abused by his partner? 22. ____
a. Yes, and I witnessed the abuse
b. Yes, but I didn't witness the abuse
c. No
23. Ever feel your parents had marital problems? 23. ____
a. Yes
b. No
24. Ever feel any of your brothers or sisters were physically, verbally or sexually abused? 24. ____
a. Yes, and I witnessed the abuse
b. Yes, but I didn't witness the abuse
c. No
d. I have no birth or adopted brothers or sisters

PART C – About the Father/Mother of my Child(ren)

My responses to the following statements refer to (please circle one):

- a. The father of my children (referred to as parent partner)
b. The mother of my children (referred to as parent partner)

Note: If there are children from different parents, please refer to the parent partner of the most recent child.

25. Is your parent partner a problem drinker or alcoholic; abuses prescription drugs or uses street drugs? 25. ____
a. Yes
b. No
26. Do you think your parent partner was abused or neglected as a child? 26. ____
a. Yes
b. No
27. Do you think your parent partner had brothers or sisters who were physically, verbally or sexually abused as children by their parents? 27. ____
a. Yes and s/he witnessed the abuse
b. Yes but s/he didn't witness the abuse
c. No
d. My parent partner has no brothers or sisters
28. Has your parent partner physically, verbally or sexually abused you? 28. ____
a. Yes
b. No
29. Have you physically, verbally, or sexually abused your parent partner? 29. ____
a. Yes
b. No
30. Please rate the quality of the relationship you have with your parent partner: 30. ____
a. Very Good
b. Good
c. Bad
d. Very Bad
31. If you were to do it all over again, would you still choose your parent partner as the mother or father of your children? 31. ____
a. Yes
b. Yes, but under different conditions
c. Maybe
d. No

PART D – About My Children/Family

32. Have any of your children ever experienced any type of physical, verbal or sexual abuse by a person outside your family? 32. ____
a. Yes
b. No
33. Have any of your children ever experienced any type of physical, verbal or sexual abuse by a person inside your family? 33. ____
a. Yes
b. No
34. Do any of your children currently have or had in the past problems with alcohol, prescription drugs or street drugs? 34. ____
a. Yes
b. No
35. Do any of your children have special learning needs that require a specialist or special education? 35. ____
a. Yes
b. No
36. Do any of your children have a history of mental health problems? 36. ____
a. Yes
b. No
37. Has anyone in your family ever been referred for psychological counseling? 37. ____
a. Yes
b. No
38. Overall, I would rate my parenting skills: 38. ____
a. Very Good
b. Good
c. Bad
d. Very Bad
39. Overall, the degree of happiness I feel being a parent is: 39. ____
a. High
b. OK
c. Low
d. Very Low
40. Knowing what you know now about being a parent, would you still be a parent if you could do it all over again? 40. ____
a. Yes
b. Probably
c. Probably Not
d. Absolutely Not

PART E – About My Knowledge of Nurturing Practices

41. Nurturing Parenting is: 41. ____
a. Being a parent 24 hours a day, seven days a week
b. Taking care of your children and yourself
c. Making sure the needs of children always come first
d. Understanding that children need to be cared for throughout their lives
42. Holding and cuddling babies helps their brains grow. 42. ____
a. Baby's brains are still developing after birth
b. Baby's brains are fully developed at birth
c. Baby's brains fully develop by the age of seven
d. Holding and cuddling babies has very little to do with brain growth - proper nutrition enhances growth
43. Having appropriate expectations for children helps them: 43. ____
a. Learn to feel good about themselves
b. Develop trust and security
c. Learn to succeed in school
d. All the above statements are true
44. Pick the right way to Praise a child for Being: 44. ____
a. "You are such a good child for helping me"
b. "You make me feel so happy when you get good grades"
c. "You are a wonderful child"
d. "You are such a nice girl when you cooperate"
45. Pick the right way to Praise a child for Doing: 45. ____
a. "Good job cleaning your room - Mommy really loves you"
b. "You sing really well"
c. "You did well but I know you will do better next time"
d. "Do well and make your family feel proud"
46. Discipline means: 46. ____
a. To guide children by using the rod of correction
b. To guide children in learning morals and values
c. To teach children to be obedient
d. Telling children what to do so they behave
47. The rights and wrongs that we learn as children are called: 47. ____
a. Family Morals
b. Family Beliefs
c. Family Traditions
d. Family Customs
48. Parental empathy means: 48. ____
a. To be aware of and help children get their needs met
b. To quiet your children when they are upset
c. To care for children but not to spoil them
d. To teach children to help others get their needs met

49. Which of the following are good rewards to use as discipline? 49. ____
- Praise
 - Hugs and other types of appropriate touch
 - Privileges like staying up a little later
 - At times, all these are good rewards
50. Family rules are important because: 50. ____
- Children need to learn to be obedient
 - Children need to learn how to cooperate
 - Children need to respect authority
 - Children need to listen to their parents
51. Why do parents spank their children? 51. ____
- Because parents were spanked as children
 - Because they love their children
 - To teach children right from wrong
 - Parents spank children for all these reasons
52. Teaching children to hit a pillow or punching bag is a good way for them to release their anger. 52. ____
- Hitting is a good way to release anger energy
 - Hitting teaches kids to hit when they're angry
 - Hitting is OK as long as you don't get carried away
 - Hitting something is a very quick way to calm down
53. Anger is: 53. ____
- Old feelings of hurt that are finally being expressed
 - A feeling that causes people to become violent
 - A good way to release stress
 - A good way to let others know you are mad at them
54. Our self-worth is: 54. ____
- Developed from the way others think about us
 - The thoughts and feelings we have about ourselves
 - Learned in childhood and is difficult to change
 - Dependent on how well our children behave
55. It is important to nurture yourself because: 55. ____
- When parents get their needs met they can help their children get their needs met
 - If parents don't get their own needs met, they will soon feel burned-out
 - Nurturing parents take care of themselves and their children
 - All of the above
56. Parents should praise themselves for being or doing in front of their children: 56. ____
- It's a good idea to model self-praise
 - Are you kidding – self-praise is like bragging
 - Children are going to think this is really weird
 - Not a good idea – this will definitely turn people off
57. Which of the following is an appropriate punishment for an infant: 57. ____
- Taking away a privilege
 - Three-minute time-out
 - Gently slapping their hand
 - Infants are never punished

58. Which of the following is a good way to build self-worth in children? 58. ____
- Listen and honor their opinions
 - Provide children with choices and consequences for their behavior
 - Don't blame them for the way parents feel
 - All of these are good ways to build self-worth
59. When children are crying, nurturing parents: 59. ____
- Comfort the child and tell them "Everything is OK"
 - Try to get the child to stop crying
 - Let them cry themselves to sleep to learn self-control
 - Calmly hold the child, rub their back and hum a lullaby
60. In building empathy in your children, it's a good idea to: 60. ____
- Develop family morals
 - Teach children to care for pets, plants and things
 - Teach children to express their feelings
 - All the above are good ideas in building empathy

Part F – About My Use of Nurturing Skills

INSTRUCTIONS:

Rate how often you practice the following nurturing parenting and nurturing self-behaviors.

- 0 = Don't practice the skill at all
 1 = Sometimes
 2 = Often
 3 = Regularly

How often do I ...

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 61. Make time to nurture myself | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 62. Recognize my personal strengths | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 63. Respond to my children with empathy | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 64. Give my children choices and consequences | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 65. Have expectations of my children to succeed | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 66. Hold, play, sing and read to my children | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 67. Praise my children for "being" wonderful kids, for being loving, etc. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 68. Praise my children for "doing" their best, for cooperating, trying, etc. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 69. Model appropriate ways to manage stress | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 70. Model appropriate ways to express anger | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 71. Help my children improve their self-worth | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 72. Refer to our family rules to help guide my children | 0 1 2 3 |
| 73. Use positive discipline rather than spank my children | 0 1 2 3 |
| 74. Reward my children when they are behaving appropriately | 0 1 2 3 |
| 75. Help my children learn ways to manage their behavior | 0 1 2 3 |
| 76. Make time to get my needs met | 0 1 2 3 |
| 77. Express unconditional love for my children | 0 1 2 3 |
| 78. Help my children get their needs met | 0 1 2 3 |
| 79. Have awareness of my own needs | 0 1 2 3 |
| 80. Get my needs met in healthy ways | 0 1 2 3 |