Outcomes Measurement Tools that Help Programs Demonstrate Impact

A common question we hear from the field is “What are the best tools to measure parent and family outcomes for families in Parents as Teachers?” Increasingly, programs need to demonstrate impact at the local level and are looking for reliable and valid tools that are both strengths-based and appropriate for the goals of Parents as Teachers. This document highlights several user-friendly tools that can be used to show that your program makes a difference in families’ lives. In addition, the Parents as Teachers curriculum includes the Parenting Reflection Survey that measures parents’ knowledge and skills in promoting their children’s healthy development.

**Life Skills Progression (LSP):** The LSP is a 43-item rating scale for use by home visitors to assess family functioning in 7 areas. LSP was developed to help home visitation programs establish baseline parent/child profiles, identify strengths and needs, plan interventions, and monitor progress and outcomes. It also encourages reflective practice and can be used as a part of reflective supervision. In addition, a recent project found that the LSP is a reliable and valid measure of functional health literacy. [http://products.brookespublishing.com/Life-Skills-Progression-LSP-P608.aspx](http://products.brookespublishing.com/Life-Skills-Progression-LSP-P608.aspx)

**Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS):** The KIPS is a 12-item observational parenting assessment that has been validated with diverse families and shown to be reliable when used by both professional and paraprofessional home visitors. KIPS can be used to guide intervention, track family progress, enhance supervision, and document program outcomes. [http://comfortconsults.com/](http://comfortconsults.com/)

**Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes (PICCOLO):** The PICCOLO is a research-based observation measure of parenting interactions. It is formatted as a checklist of 29 observable developmentally supportive parenting behaviors with children ages 10–47 months. It is a valid and reliable tool that can be used to track positive parenting outcomes in 4 domains: affection, responsiveness, encouragement and teaching. [http://www.brookespublishing.com/resource-center/screening-and-assessment/piccolo/](http://www.brookespublishing.com/resource-center/screening-and-assessment/piccolo/)

**Protective Factors Survey (PFS):** The PFS is a 20-item pre-post self-administered survey that measures caregiver protective factors against child abuse and neglect. The survey has undergone four national field tests for establishing reliability and validity and results are designed to help agencies measure changes in protective factors and identify areas where workers can focus on increasing individual family protective factors. [http://www.friendsnrc.org/outcome/pfs.htm](http://www.friendsnrc.org/outcome/pfs.htm)

**University of Idaho Survey of Parenting Practices (UISPP):** The UISPP tool is a 12-item retrospective pre-test for parents to report the change in their parenting behavior during their participation in Parents as Teachers. Items focus on parenting practice in the areas of knowledge, confidence, skills and behaviors. Studies show the survey to be valid and reliable. [http://www.agls.uidaho.edu/fcs/extension/familylife/tools.htm](http://www.agls.uidaho.edu/fcs/extension/familylife/tools.htm)

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1/7/2014