

***Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale* © (KIPS)**
A Practical Parenting Assessment Tool
<http://ComfortConsults.com>

KIPS addresses the need of family service programs for a brief practical observational tool to assess the quality of parenting behavior. With KIPS, family service providers from a variety of education, health and social service settings can directly observe caregivers, identify specific parenting strengths and needs, tailor services to individual families, track family progress, and evaluate parenting outcomes.

KIPS helps you help families. KIPS, a structured observation tool of parent-child interaction, reliably assesses the quality of parenting behaviors during free play with a child two months through five years of age. With valid information specific to the family, you can open a strength-based conversation with caregivers about parenting, and intervene more effectively to promote healthy child and family development. By building responsive parenting behaviors, you can prevent negative downward spirals, and instead promote ongoing cycles of healthy parent-child relations.



KIPS field tests and validity studies were supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. KIPS was developed through a series of steps, including factor analysis, expert and literature reviews, and provider focus groups. KIPS has been tested with both risk and non-risk, educationally, economically, and ethnically diverse populations, in rural, urban and suburban communities. The KIPS field test showed satisfactory inter-rater agreement, and internal consistency in scoring. Both professionals and paraprofessionals scored KIPS reliably when assessing families they served. KIPS validity studies showed significant correlations with validated observational tools, such as the NCAST Teaching Scale, the HOME Inventory, the Parent/Caregiver Involvement Scale, and the Scales of Child Behavior (adapted from the EHS National Study Three Bag Test), as well as parents' reports of Knowledge of Child Development and Staff Ratings of Engagement in services.

KIPS provides essential information for working with families to enhance parent-child interaction and for program evaluation. Effective parent-child assessment can guide family intervention, offer opportunities for reflective supervision, and strengthen program outcomes. Longitudinal research and family service program evaluations have shown that parenting outcomes assessed by KIPS increase significantly with intervention. Furthermore, early KIPS scores predict later quality of parenting and toddler social behavior during play.

For More Information

Comfort, M., Gordon, P.R. & Naples, D. (2011). KIPS: An Evidence-Based Tool for Assessing Parenting Strengths and Needs in Diverse Families. *Infants & Young Children: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Early Childhood Intervention* 24(1), 56-74.

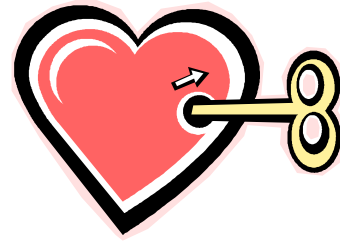
Comfort, M., Gordon, P.R., English, B., Hacker, K., Hembree, R., Knight, R., & Miller, C. (2010). Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale: KIPS Shows How Parents Grow, *Zero to Three Journal*, 30(4), 33-39.

Comfort, M., Gordon, P.R. & Unger, D.G. (2006). Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale: A Window Into Many Facets of Parenting. *Journal of Zero to Three*, 26(5), 37-44.

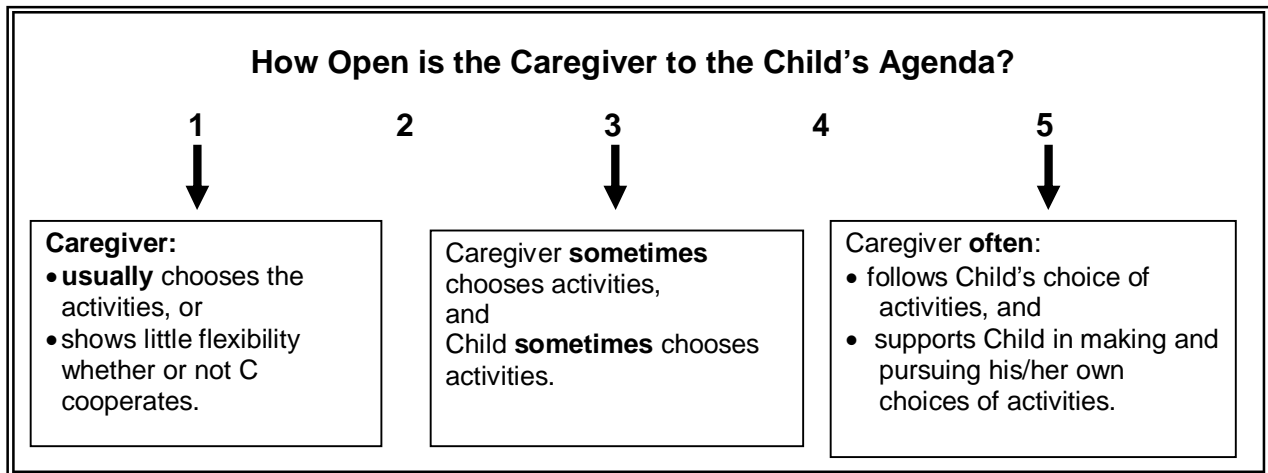
Comfort, M. & Gordon, P.R. (2006). The Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS): A Practical Observational Assessment of Parenting Behavior. *NHSA Dialog: A Research-To-Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field*, 9(1), 22-48.

KIPS - 12 ITEMS:

- 1) Sensitivity of Responses
- 2) Supports Emotions
- 3) Physical Interaction
- 4) Involvement in Child Activities
- 5) Open to Child's Agenda
- 6) Engagement in Language Experiences
- 7) Reasonable Expectations
- 8) Adapts Strategies to Child
- 9) Limits & Consequences
- 10) Supportive Directions
- 11) Encouragement
- 12) Promotes Exploration & Curiosity



EXAMPLE OF KIPS ITEM AND BEHAVIOR DESCRIPTIONS:



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KEYS TO INTERACTIVE PARENTING SCALE