
Selections highlight research, evaluation reports, and other publications that inform the field about key issues in, and effective practices for, fostering economic self-sufficiency.

Johnson, M. A., Stone, S., Lou, C., Vu, C., Ling, J., Mizrahi, P., & Austin, M. J. (2006). *Family assessment in child welfare services: Instrument comparisons*. Berkeley, CA: University of California, School of Social Welfare, Center for Social Services Research.

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/bassc/public/bassc_familyassessment_full_report091406.pdf

This report from the Bay Area Social Services Consortium detailed a review of 85 family assessment instruments based on seven criteria, which resulted in the identification of seven comprehensive instruments best suited for child welfare settings. The seven instruments described in the report are: (a) the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS) and two modified versions of the NCFAS, (b) the NCFAS for Reunification (NCFAS-R), (c) the Strengths and Stressors Tracking Device (SSTD), (d) the Family Assessment Form (FAF), (e) the Family Assessment Checklist (FAC), (f) the Ackerman-Schoendorf Scales for Parent Evaluation of Custody (ASPECT), and (g) the Darlington Family Assessment System (DFAS). The report also shared instruments that are useful for assessment in specific domains and points in time, such as patterns of social interaction and support, parenting practices, background characteristics, and basic needs.

Wilkinson, I. (2000). *The Darlington Family Assessment System: Clinical guidelines for practitioners*. *Journal of Family Therapy*, 22(2), 211-224. doi: 10.1111/1467-6427.00147

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-6427.00147/epdf>

This journal article provided an overview of the Darlington Family Assessment System (DFAS) and guidance for practitioners using the tool within a clinical setting. DFAS is administered as a semi-structured interview and is designed to look at health issues within a family-development framework. DFAS considers the child perspective, the parental perspective, parent-child perspective, and the whole family perspective in its assessment. It is designed to be used in a variety of therapeutic approaches and is useful in informing the types of interventions that will likely be effective given the family dynamics. The article outlined the evidence-base for using the tool to train novices in the child mental health field, the ability of DFAS to differentiate among families, and the clinical implications of the system.

Alderfer, M. A., Fiese, B. H., Gold, J. I., Cutuli, J. J., Holmbeck, G. N., Goldbeck, L., ... - Patterson, J. (2008). Evidence-based assessment in pediatric psychology: Family measures. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 33(9), 1046-1061. doi: 10.1093/jpepsy/jsm083

<http://jpepsy.oxfordjournals.org/content/33/9/1046.full.pdf+html>

This journal article outlined a review and evaluation of family measures relevant to pediatric psychology. A seven-member workgroup convened to review 29 family measures that assess general family functioning, dyadic familial relationships, or families in the context of childhood chronic illnesses. Of those assessed, 19 were deemed "well-established" according to three criteria: (a) the measure has been presented in at least two peer-reviewed articles by different teams, (b) sufficient detail is presented to allow for critical evaluation and replication, and (c) information has been presented in at least one peer-reviewed article to indicate good reliability and validity. In addition, ten measures were deemed "approaching well-established" according to three criteria: (a) the measure has been presented in at least two peer-reviewed articles, possibly by the same team; (b) sufficient detail is presented to allow for critical evaluation and replication; and (c) reliability and validity are moderate at best and presented in vague, non-numeric terms.

Bronte-Tinkew, J., & Horowitz, A. (2009). *Inventory of measures for use in fatherhood programs*. Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

<http://www.fatherhood.gov/sites/default/files/files-for-pages/Inventory%20of%20Measures-Child%20Trends%20March%2006-09.pdf>

This document provided measures of father involvement with children and families that can be used by fatherhood programs, including those focusing on non-custodial fathers. The measures cover a range of relevant topics, including father well-being, social support, father-mother/partner relationship, father involvement, co-parenting, measures for non-resident fathers, and child support arrangements. In addition, all measures have been used in large- or small-scale surveys or studies.

Kendall, S., Rodger, J., & Palmer, H. (2010). *The use of whole family assessment to identify the needs of families with multiple problems* (Research Report No. DFE-RR045). London, England: United Kingdom Department for Education.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181688/DFE-RR045.pdf

This report, prepared for the United Kingdom Department for Education, highlighted examples of local agencies that use whole-family assessments in families experiencing multiple issues affecting child and family well-being. The report detailed the process used by these local agencies, and outlined positive outcomes that resulted from taking a family-focused approach. Among the positive outcomes are reduced risk levels, allowing children to remain within their own homes. This approach has also allowed agencies to more quickly identify child safety concerns and move to action.

Table 1. [Family assessment in child welfare services: Instrument comparisons](#)

Tools Discussed	Child Welfare	General Family Functioning	Self-Report Questionnaires	Dyadic Family Relationships	Families in the Context of Chronic Medical Conditions	Whole Family Assessment
The North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS) and two modified versions of the NCFAS	✓					
The NCFAS for Reunification (NCFAS-R)	✓					
The Strengths and Stressors Tracking Device (SSTD)	✓					
The Family Assessment Form (FAF)	✓	✓				
The Family Assessment Checklist (FAC)	✓	✓				
The Ackerman-Schoendorf Scales for Parent Evaluation of Custody (ASPECT)	✓					

Table 2. [The Darlington Family Assessment System: Clinical guidelines for practitioners](#)

Tools Discussed	Child Welfare	General Family Functioning	Self-Report Questionnaires	Dyadic Family Relationships	Families in the Context of Chronic Medical Conditions	Whole Family Assessment
The Darlington Family Assessment System (DFAS)	✓					

Table 3. [Evidence-based assessment in pediatric psychology: Family measures](#)

Tools Discussed	Child Welfare	General Family Functioning	Self-Report Questionnaires	Dyadic Family Relationships	Families in the Context of Chronic Medical Conditions	Whole Family Assessment
The Family Assessment Device (FAD)			✓			
The Family Assessment Measure-III (FAM-III)			✓			
The Family Relationship Index (FRI) of the Family Environment Scale (FES)			✓			
The Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test (MAT)			✓	✓		
The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS)			✓	✓		
The Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised (MSI-R)			✓	✓		
The Revised Children's Report of Parental Behavior Inventory (CRPBI-30)				✓		
The Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA)			✓	✓		
The Issues Checklist (IC)			✓	✓		
The Constraining and Enabling Coding System (CECS)				✓		
The Sibling Relationship Questionnaire (SRQ)			✓	✓		
The Impact on Family Scale (IOF)			✓		✓	

Family Assessment Tools

Tools Discussed	Child Welfare	General Family Functioning	Self-Report Questionnaires	Dyadic Family Relationships	Families in the Context of Chronic Medical Conditions	Whole Family Assessment
The Parents of Children with Disability Inventory (PCDI)			✓		✓	
The Pediatric Inventory for Parents (PIP)			✓		✓	
The Coping Health Inventory for Parents (CHIP)			✓		✓	
The Beavers Interactional Scales (BIS)		✓				
The McMasters Clinical Rating Scale (MCRS)		✓				
The Circumplex Clinician Rating Scale (CCRS)		✓				
The Mealtime Interaction Coding System (MICS)		✓				
The Iowa Family Interaction Rating Scales (IFIRS)		✓				

Table 4. [Inventory of measures for use in fatherhood programs](#)

Tools Discussed	Child Welfare	General Family Functioning	Self-Report Questionnaires	Dyadic Family Relationships	Families in the Context of Chronic Medical Conditions	Whole Family Assessment
Measures of Program Participation			✓			
Measures of Father Well-Being			✓			
Measures of Parenting		✓	✓			
Measures of Social Support			✓			
Measures of the Father-Mother/Partner Relationship		✓	✓			

Tools Discussed	Child Welfare	General Family Functioning	Self-Report Questionnaires	Dyadic Family Relationships	Families in the Context of Chronic Medical Conditions	Whole Family Assessment
Measures of Father Involvement			✓			
Measures of Co-Parenting		✓	✓			
Measures for Nonresident Fathers			✓			
Measures of Child Support Arrangements			✓			

Table 5. [The use of whole family assessment to identify the needs of families with multiple problems: Three approaches to the whole family assessment](#)

Tools Discussed	Child Welfare	General Family Functioning	Self-Report Questionnaires	Dyadic Family Relationships	Families in the Context of Chronic Medical Conditions	Whole Family Assessment
The Hybrid Model and the CAF+ Model (based on the CAF form)		✓				✓
The Service-led Assessment Model		✓				✓
The Information Model		✓				✓