

Fatherhood Scale

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The categories are scored as: never (1), rarely, (2), sometimes, (3), often, (4), and always (5).

Negative items (11, 13, 15, 20, 25, 27, 42, 45, 47, 58, 59, & 63) are inversely scored. For these questions they are scored as: never (5), rarely, (4), sometimes, (3), often, (2), and always (1).

Question		Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Score
1	My father helped me with my homework.	1	2	3	4	5	
2	My father talked to me about my personal problems.	1	2	3	4	5	
3	My father took me on activities.	1	2	3	4	5	
4	My father told me that he loved me.	1	2	3	4	5	
5	My father told me that I was a good boy/girl.	1	2	3	4	5	
6	My father is a caring person.	1	2	3	4	5	
7	My father attended school conferences.	1	2	3	4	5	
8	During my childhood I felt close to my father.	1	2	3	4	5	
9	During my teen years my father and I did things together.	1	2	3	4	5	
10	My father liked to spend time with me.	1	2	3	4	5	
11	My father spanked me.	1	2	3	4	5	
12	I felt close to my father as a teenager.	1	2	3	4	5	
13	My father hit my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	
14	I know that my father cared about me.	1	2	3	4	5	
15	My father was ashamed of me as a child.	1	2	3	4	5	
16	My dad taught me to fight back.	1	2	3	4	5	

17	My father made sure I had the things I needed such as clothing & toys.	1	2	3	4	5	
18	My father read to me as a child.	1	2	3	4	5	
19	My father provided well for us financially.	1	2	3	4	5	
20	My father used to say things that hurt my feelings.	1	2	3	4	5	
21	My father encouraged me to say what I felt.	1	2	3	4	5	
22	My dad showed interest in my schoolwork.	1	2	3	4	5	
23	My father hugged me.	1	2	3	4	5	
24	My father is a good man.	1	2	3	4	5	
25	When I got in trouble, my father would punish me physically	1	2	3	4	5	
26	My father taught me right from wrong.	1	2	3	4	5	
27	I saw my father beat my mother.	1	2	3	4	5	
28	I saw my father cry.	1	2	3	4	5	
29	I saw my father cry.	1	2	3	4	5	
30	My father was a good breadwinner for the family.	1	2	3	4	5	
31	I could talk to my father about anything.	1	2	3	4	5	
32	My father went to church with me.	1	2	3	4	5	
33	I remember playing sports with my father.	1	2	3	4	5	
34	My father helped my mother clean the house.	1	2	3	4	5	
35	My father comforted me when I was feeling bad.	1	2	3	4	5	

36	My Dad was always employed while I was growing up.	1	2	3	4	5	
37	My father made me feel special.	1	2	3	4	5	
38	When I got angry I used to talk things over with my dad.	1	2	3	4	5	
39	My father and I enjoyed time together.	1	2	3	4	5	
40	My dad would talk to me about things going on in the world.	1	2	3	4	5	
41	My father was loving towards me.	1	2	3	4	5	
42	I was abused by my father.	1	2	3	4	5	
43	My father talked to me about sex.	1	2	3	4	5	
44	My father use to say grace at mealtime.	1	2	3	4	5	
45	When I was a child, my father shouted at me if I did something wrong.	1	2	3	4	5	
46	I have warm feelings toward my father.	1	2	3	4	5	
47	I felt my father was critical of me.	1	2	3	4	5	
48	My dad taught me what it was like to be a man.	1	2	3	4	5	
49	My dad attended sporting events in which I played.	1	2	3	4	5	
50	My father and I had good times together.	1	2	3	4	5	
51	My father instilled important values in me.	1	2	3	4	5	
52	My dad took me to the doctor.	1	2	3	4	5	
53	My father is a kind man.	1	2	3	4	5	
54	My father understood me.	1	2	3	4	5	

55	I told my father that I loved him.	1	2	3	4	5		
56	My father was around when I needed him.	1	2	3	4	5		
57	My father praised me.	1	2	3	4	5		
58	My father is mean.	1	2	3	4	5		
59	My father used to get angry and say he didn't like me.	1	2	3	4	5		
60	My dad attended school activities in which I participated.	1	2	3	4	5		
61	My dad talked to me about God.	1	2	3	4	5		
62	My father showed concern when I got hurt.	1	2	3	4	5		
63	I saw my father hit one of my siblings.	1	2	3	4	5		
64	My dad would cook meals.	1	2	3	4	5		
							Total:	

SCORING THE FATHERHOOD SCALE

Applicable Populations

The Fatherhood Scale (FS) measures the ideal culture of responsible fatherhood in the United States: nurturing, positively involved in activities and school related events, being a good provider, and moral teacher, a model of flexible masculinity, accessible, and supportive of the child's emotional development. The FS has also been used to study fatherhood in various cultural and ethnic groups throughout the world.

Purpose

There are many useful benefits for using the FS. The FS is useful for men who want to compare their own father's role with how they are as fathers with their own children. Some men may find that there were several ways in which their fathers were involved with them when they were growing up that they do not want to repeat with their own children. The FS is useful for both men

and women who may want to sort out any painful or conflictual issues they may have over the type of involvement their father had with them, or the lack thereof. The FS helps individuals sort out the ways in which they want to be like their fathers and ways in which they do not want to be like their fathers. Women can reflect upon their relationships with their fathers and gain many benefits including: how he impacted their view of men, how he modeled treating their mother, how he engaged with them, thus modeling fathering, and many other psychological benefits. On the contrary, the scale may reveal several positive strengths of their fathers that they will want to continue in their parenting role with their own children. The FS is also useful with immigrants in that they can readily distinguish between paternal behaviors in their country of origin and compare them to their experiences in American culture.

Referent Time Period

The instructions for the FS ask respondents to think about their relationships with their fathers while they were growing up and to answer each statement based on how they perceived the relationship during their childhood and adolescence.

SCORING OF THE FATHERHOOD SCALE

Scoring

The Fatherhood Scale is scored by adding the total responses for each item. The scores on the entire FS range from 64 to 320. The items are scored using a Likert type scale where respondents rate the frequency of each type of paternal involvement by selecting the item that best represents the occurrence of the event. The categories are scored as: never (1), rarely, (2), sometimes, (3), often, (4), and always (5). Negative items (11, 13, 15, 20, 25, 27, 42, 45, 47, 58, 59, & 63) are inversely scored. For these questions they are scored as: never (5), rarely, (4), sometimes, (3), often, (2), and always (1). This means a lower score indicates the lack of negative fathering.

After scoring each question, add up the total scores for all 64 questions. Scores are interpreted as the higher the score, the more positive paternal relationship, whereas the lower the score, the more negative the paternal relationship. Scores under 128 indicate that the father was never or rarely engaged in any positive activities. Scores over 256 indicate that the father often or always engaged in positive activities.

It is important to look at the scores on each subscale. A father may be rated very high in some areas, such as the good provider, and yet low in another area. While the overall score indicates

a broad level of father involvement, it is important to look at the subscales to examine the strengths and weaknesses of fathering. The subscales are provided, so the respondents identify each subscale and add the scores for that type of father involvement.

SUBSCALES OF THE FATHERHOOD SCALE

In addition to the total score for each subscale you will want to look at specific questions to make meaning out of each.

Positive Engagement: Scores ranging from 5-10 indicate the father was never or rarely involved in positive activities with you, whereas scores ranging from 20-25 indicate the father was often or always spending time with you on fun activities. Scores ranging from 11-19 indicate the father sometimes was involved in positive activities.

- 3. My father took me on activities
- 9. During my teen years my father and I did things together
- 10. My father liked to spend time with me
- 39. My father and I enjoyed time together
- 50. My father and I had good times together

Positive Paternal Emotional Responsiveness: Scores ranging from 13-26 indicate the father was never or rarely nurturing with you, whereas scores ranging from 52-65 indicate the father was often or always nurturing and emotionally available to you. Scores ranging from 27-51 indicate the father may be nurturing and emotionally supportive in some ways, but less so in other ways.

- 5. My father told me that I was a good boy/girl
- 6. My father is a caring person
- 8. During my childhood I felt close to my father
- 12. I felt close to my father as a teenager
- 14. I know my father cared about me
- 35. My father comforted me when I was feeling bad
- 37. My father made me feel special
- 41. My father was loving towards me
- 46. I have warm feelings for my father
- 54. My father understood me
- 55. I told my father I loved him
- 57. My father praised me

62. My father showed concern when I got hurt

Negative Paternal Engagement: These scores are inversed. Scores ranging from 12-24 indicate the father was often or always behaving in negative abusive ways with you, whereas higher scores ranging from 52-65 indicate the father seldom or never displayed emotionally or physically abusive behaviors toward you or other family members. Scores ranging from 25-51 indicate the father sometimes was involved in negative behaviors.

- 11. My father spanked me
- 13. My father hit my mother
- 15. My father was ashamed of me as a child
- 20. My father use to say things to hurt my feelings
- 25. When I got in trouble my father would punish me physically
- 27. I saw my father beat my mother
- 42. I was abused by my father
- 45. When I was a child, my father shouted at me if I did something wrong
- 47. I felt my father was critical of me
- 58. My father is mean
- 59. My father use to get angry and say he didn't like me
- 63. I saw my father hit one of my siblings

The Moral Father Role: Scores ranging from 5-10 indicate the father was never or rarely engaging in moral teaching or modeling religious guidance, whereas scores ranging from 20-25 indicate the father was often or always teaching or modeling moral or religious behaviors. Scores ranging from 13-23 indicate the father may be a moral teacher in some ways, but less so in other ways.

- 26. My father taught me right from wrong
- 32. My father went to church with me
- 51. My father instilled important values in me
- 61. My dad talked to me about God
- 44. My father use to say grace at mealtime

The Gender Role Model: Scores ranging from 6-12 indicate the father was never or rarely a model of traditional masculinity, whereas scores ranging from 24-30 indicate the father was often or always a model of traditional gender role socialization. Scores ranging from 13-23 indicate the father have had periods of when he was providing traditional male socialization.

16. My dad taught me to fight back
21. My father encouraged me to say what I felt
31. I could talk to my father about anything
40. My dad would talk to me about things going on in the world
43. My father talked to me about sex
48. My dad taught me what it was like to be a man

The Good Provider Role: Scores ranging from 4-8 indicate the father was never or rarely a good provider, whereas scores ranging from 16-20 indicate the father was often or always a good provider. Scores ranging from 9-15 indicate the father have had periods of when he was unable to provide for you financially.

17. My father made sure I had the things I needed like clothing and toys
19. My father provided well for us financially
29. My father was a good breadwinner for the family
36. My dad was always employed while I was growing up

The Androgynous Role: Scores ranging from 7-14 indicate the father was never or rarely a androgynous, whereas scores ranging from 28-35 indicate the father was often or always demonstrating both traditional masculine and feminine behaviors. Scores ranging from 15-27 indicate the father have had periods of when he was unable gender flexible.

4. My father told me that he loved me
23. My father hugged me
24. My father is a good man
28. I saw my father cry
34. My father helped my mom clean the house
53. My father is a kind man
64. My dad would cook meals

Responsible Paternal Engagement: Scores ranging from 8-16 indicate the father was never or rarely involved in attending school related events or activities, whereas scores ranging from 32-40 indicate the father was often or always showing interest or demonstrating involvement in

your education or sporting events. Scores ranging from 17-31 indicate the father have had periods of when he was involved.

1. My father helped me with my homework
7. My father attended school conferences
18. My father read to me as a child
22. My dad showed interest in my schoolwork
33. I remember playing sports with my father
49. My dad attended sporting events in which I played
52. My father took me to the Dr.
60. My dad attended school activities in which I participated

The Accessible Father: Scores ranging from 4-8 indicate the father was never or rarely a available, whereas scores ranging from 16-20 indicate the father was often or always a accessible. Scores ranging from 9-15 indicate the father have had periods of when he was unavailable.

2. My father talked to be about my personal problems
30. My father helped me solve my problems
38. When I got angry, I use to talk things over with my dad
56. My father was around when I needed him