

KIPS Fast Facts:
Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale®
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Why Use KIPS?

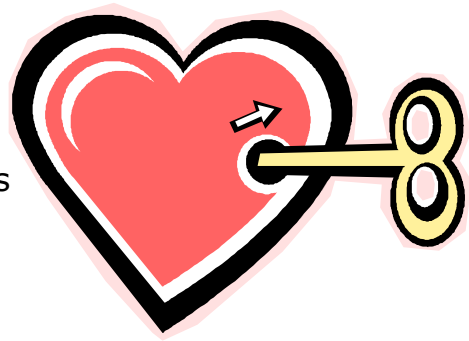
KIPS provides essential information to enhance parent-child interaction and to evaluate program goals. Effective parent-child assessment can guide family intervention and strengthen program outcomes.

Who Uses KIPS?

Healthy Families, Parents As Teachers, First Steps, Early Head Start, Child Abuse Prevention, Mental Health Services, Family Resource Centers, WIC, Family Literacy, & Private Practitioners.

Parenting Behaviors Assessed

1. Sensitivity of Responses
2. Supports Emotions
3. Physical Interaction
4. Involvement in Child's 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



Child Age Range

2 to 71 months

KIPS Administration

Since KIPS assesses interaction during play, it is well received by families and children. KIPS assesses a caregiver (e.g. parent, other family member) interacting with a child in a familiar environment (e.g. home or playroom). To assure reliability, the play session is usually videotaped and scored later. Each of the 12 items is rated on a 1 to 5 scale, with behavior descriptions for the 1, 3 and 5 ratings.

Time to Administer

The observation requires only 20 minutes (15 minutes of free play and 5 minutes of clean up, if appropriate). Scoring takes 10 minutes.

Available Languages

KIPS scoring forms are available in English and Spanish.

Research Evidence

KIPS, a structured observation tool for parent-child interaction, was developed through a series of steps, including factor analysis, expert and literature reviews, and provider focus groups. A field test and validity studies, supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, show satisfactory inter-rater agreement (92% with family service providers) and internal consistency ($\alpha = .95$). Both professionals and paraprofessionals score KIPS reliably when assessing families they serve. KIPS has been tested with both risk and non-risk, educationally, economically, and ethnically diverse populations in rural, urban and suburban communities. KIPS scores correlate significantly with other validated observational tools (NCAST Teaching Scale, HOME Inventory, Parent/Caregiver Involvement Scale, Test of Playfulness), with parents' reports of their Knowledge of Child Development, and with Staff Ratings of Caregiver Engagement in home visiting services. KIPS scores have been shown to be lower for teenagers, caregivers with less education, and for mothers entering substance abuse treatment, than for caregivers from the general community. KIPS scores do not differ significantly according to parent or child gender, race/ethnicity, employment, child age group, or child special needs. Family service programs have shown that parenting outcomes assessed by KIPS increase significantly with intervention.

KIPS Training & Certification

KIPS training is available in two formats: **KIPS eLearning**[®], an Internet-based training, or a two-day training workshop. The training consists of an orientation to observational assessment and the KIPS scale, followed by practice scoring each of the items with family videos. Learners then rate progressively more items, and eventually practice rating all 12 items simultaneously. At the end of the training is a certification exam. Annual recertification is required via the online **KIPS Annual Check-Up**. The online **KIPS Library** offers ongoing support for scoring practice via a searchable database of family characteristics and a scoring discussion for each play video. It also offers resources and information for implementation of KIPS with families.

For More Information

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.

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