



## Comfort Consults, LLC

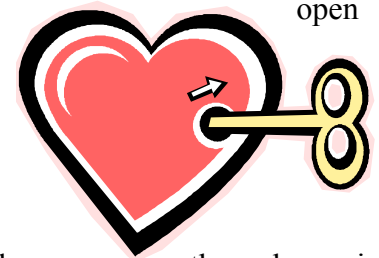
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### *Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale* © (KIPS) *A Practical Parenting Assessment Tool with Online Training*

Assessing parent-child interaction provides critical information for improving parenting behaviors that impact children's healthy development. Even though quality parenting is recognized as key to a child's development, no observational assessment scale is routinely used by family service providers.

The **Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS)** addresses the need of family service programs for a brief practical tool to assess parenting quality. With KIPS, family service providers from a variety of education, health and social service settings can directly observe caregivers, identify parenting strengths and needs, develop parenting strategies, assess family progress, and evaluate parenting outcomes.

KIPS 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 each family, you can strength-based dialogues 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, a structured observation tool of parent-child interaction, was developed through a series of steps, including factor analysis, expert and literature reviews, and provider focus groups. KIPS field testing (Comfort, Gordon & Unger, 2006) and validation were supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and showed satisfactory inter-rater agreement, internal consistency and validity (Comfort & Gordon, 2006). After training, 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 validated observational tools, such as the NCAST Teaching Scale, the HOME Inventory, the Parent/Caregiver Involvement Scale, 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 and strengthen program outcomes. Family service programs have shown that parenting outcomes assessed by KIPS increase significantly with intervention.

#### **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.