



Parents as Teachers

Outcomes Measurement Tools that Help Programs Demonstrate Impact

A common question we hear from the field is “What are the best tools to measure parent and family outcomes for families in Parents as Teachers?” Increasingly, programs need to demonstrate impact at the local level and are looking for reliable and valid tools that are both strengths-based and appropriate for the goals of Parents as Teachers. This article briefly highlights four user-friendly tools that have been developed and refined over the past few years and which can be used to show that your program makes a difference in families’ lives. In addition, the Parents as Teachers curriculum includes a pre/post parent knowledge assessment and measures of parent satisfaction.

Life Skills Progression (LSP)

LSP is a 43-item rating scale for use by home visitors to assess family functioning in 7 areas. LSP was developed to help home visitation programs establish baseline parent/child profiles, identify strengths and needs, plan interventions, and monitor progress and outcomes. It is also encourages reflective practice and can be used as a part of reflective supervision. In addition, a recent project found that the LSP is a reliable and valid measure of functional health literacy.

<http://www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/wollesen-8302/>

Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS)

KIPS is a 12-item observational parenting assessment that has been validated with diverse families and shown to be reliable when used by both professional and paraprofessional home visitors. KIPS can be used to guide intervention, track family progress, enhance supervision, and document program outcomes.

<http://comfortconsults.com/>

Protective Factors Survey (PFS)

The PFS is a 20-item pre-post self-administered survey that measures caregiver protective factors against child abuse and neglect. The survey has undergone four national field tests for establishing reliability and validity and results are designed to help agencies measure changes in protective factors and identify areas where workers can focus on increasing individual family protective factors.

<http://www.friendsnrc.org/outcome/pfs.htm>

University of Idaho Survey of Parenting Practices (UISPP)

The UISPP tool is a 12-item retrospective pre-test for parents to report the change in their parenting behavior during their participation in Parents as Teachers. Items focus on parenting practice in the areas of knowledge, confidence, skills and behaviors. Studies show the survey to be valid and reliable.

<http://www.agls.uidaho.edu/fcs/extension/familylife/tools.htm>

For information about additional parent or child outcomes measures, see the Outcomes Measurement Toolkit on the Parents as Teachers website at <http://measures.patnc.org/measures/>. With a range of choices available to fit the needs of your program, you are sure to find a measure that works for you!