

SCORING OF THE FATHERHOOD SCALE

Applicable Populations

The Fatherhood Scale measures the ideal culture of responsible fatherhood in the United States: nurturing, positively involved in activities and school related events, 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 imitate with their own children. 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 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. 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

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 in order to examine the strengths and weaknesses of fathering. The subscales

are provided, so the respondents identify each subscale and add the scores for that particular type of father involvement.

Subscales of The Fatherhood Scale

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; therefore you will want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

- 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
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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; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

- 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 inverted. 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; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

- 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 sibs

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; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

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; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

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; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

- 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; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

- 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 involved; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

- 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 school work
- 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 unable to be available; therefore you want to look at the specific question to make meaning out of each question.

- 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
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