

Assessing Parenting and the Family Life of Children

Using Standardised Assessment Tools

- The HOME Inventory
- The Family Pack of Questionnaires

The HOME Inventory: Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment

The HOME Inventory focuses on the child's experiences in the home environment that are relevant to their development

The HOME Inventory is a standardised assessment of a child's home environment.

- The HOME uses a combination of direct observation along with an interview with the main carer

- Each inventory contains groups of scales to assess different aspects of the child's environment.

- Each scale contains a number of items scored according to a glossary.

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- There are four HOME inventories for children:
 - 0 - 3 years
 - 3 - 6 years
 - 6 - 10 years
 - 10 – 14 years

 - There are two Child Care HOME inventories for children:
 - 0 - 3 years
 - 3 - 6 years

 - There are twelve Disability Adapted HOME inventories for children:
 - 0 - 3 years
 - 3 - 6 years
 - 6 - 10 years

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- There are four Disability adapted HOME inventories for children in each of these age bands:
 - 0 - 3 years
 - 3 - 6 years
 - 6 - 10 years

 - The versions are:
 - Developmental Delay
 - Auditory (Hearing) Impairment
 - Visual Impairment
 - Orthopaedic (Physical) Impairment

 - The scales consist of modifications of items in the standard age based inventories with supplementary items.

ORIGINAL TOOL (Caldwell & Bradley)

- a summary sheet
- a record form
- a glossary

ADAPTATION FOR PRACTITIONERS (Cox & Walker)

- an interview schedule.
- interview approach.

The HOME Inventory: sub-scales

0-3 years Sub-scales	3-6 years Sub-scales	6-10 years Sub-scales	10 – 14 years
Responsivity	Learning materials	Responsivity	Physical environment
Acceptance	Language stimulation	Encouragement of maturity	Learning materials
Organisation	Physical environment	Emotional climate	Modelling
Learning materials	Responsivity	Learning materials and opportunities	Fostering self-sufficiency
Involvement	Academic stimulation	Enrichment	Regulatory activities
Variety	Modelling	Family companionship	Family companionship
	Variety	Family integration	Acceptance
	Acceptance	Aspects of the physical environment	

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- Parental actions
 - Household objects
 - Family events
 - Residential conditions

Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales

Using evidence-based assessment tools

Semi Structured Interviews have a range of suggested questions:

- Interviewer asks questions, listens and observes until the items can be reliably scored or rated

Questionnaires and Scales have fixed wording thus :

- Scores provide guidance but
- Can only be relied on in day to day practice if the interviewer finds out the meaning of the answers

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- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires
 - Parenting Daily Hassles Scale
 - Home Conditions Scale
 - Adult Wellbeing Scale
 - Adolescent Wellbeing Scale
 - Recent Life Events Questionnaires
 - Family Activity Scale
 - Alcohol Scale