

Appendix:

The Emlen Scales

Measuring the Quality of Child Care From a Parent's Point of View

Scales Addressing Issues of Diversity

Parent perception of caregiver's cultural sensitivity. 8 items Alpha=.88

My child is treated with respect.
The caregiver makes an effort to get to know my child.
The caregiver accepts my child for who she (he) is.
The caregiver takes an interest in my child.
My child feels accepted by the caregiver.
I feel welcomed by the caregiver.
My caregiver accepts the way I raise my child.
My caregiver is supportive of me as a parent.

Child's special needs. 5 items Alpha=.78

My child needs more attention than most children.
My child's special needs require a lot of extra effort.
My caregiver feels that my child's needs are quite demanding.
I've had caregivers who quit or let my child go because of behavioral problems.
My child can be quite difficult to handle.

These special needs may be related to a disability:

My child has a physical disability that requires special attention.
My child has a health need that requires extra attention.
My child has an emotional or behavioral problem that requires special attention.
My child has a learning disability that requires specialized approaches.

Combining the above into one scale created a 9-item scale, Alpha=.75

Continuity of care. 4 items Alpha=.79

My child has been in a familiar place with people he (she) knows.
My child has had stability in her (his) child-care relationships.
There has been too much turnover in my child's caregivers. (-)
How many months has your child been in this arrangement?¹

¹ This duration item was added in the Kansas City replication (Emlen et al., 2000, p.34)

Scales Measuring Aspects of Child-Care Quality

(From the Kansas City Replication (N=240) (Emlen et al., 2000))

Caregiver's warmth and interest in my child 6 items Alpha=.92

My caregiver is happy to see my child.

The caregiver is warm and affectionate toward my child.

My child is treated with respect.

The caregiver takes an interest in my child.

My child gets a lot of individual attention.

The caregiver seems happy and content.

Rich environment and activities 5 items Alpha=.91

There are lots of creative activities going on.

It's an interesting place for my child.

There are plenty of toys, books, pictures, and music for my child.

In care, my child has many natural learning experiences.

The caregiver provides activities that are just right for my child.

Caregiver's skill 3 items Alpha=.80

The caregiver changes activities in response to my child's needs.

My caregiver knows a lot about children and their needs.

My caregiver is open to new information and learning.

Supportive parent-caregiver relationship 6 items Alpha=.84

My caregiver and I share information.

We've talked about how to deal with problems that might arise.

My caregiver is supportive of me as a parent.

My caregiver accepts the way I want to raise my child.

I'm free to drop in whenever I wish.

I feel welcomed by the caregiver.

Child feels happy, safe, and secure 6 items Alpha=.85

My child feels safe and secure.

My child has been happy in this arrangement.

My child has been irritable since being in this arrangement. (-)

My child feels accepted by the caregiver.

My child likes the caregiver.

My child feels isolated and alone in care. (-)

Risks to health, safety, and well-being 10 items Alpha=.85

My child is safe with this caregiver. (-)

There are too many children being cared for at the same time.

The caregiver needs more help with the children.

The caregiver gets impatient with my child.

The children seem out of control.

The conditions are unsanitary.

The children watch too much TV.

It's a healthy place for my child. (-)

I worry about bad things happening to my child in care.

Dangerous things are kept out of reach. (-)

Child getting along well socially (from the original sample, N=862) 2 items Alpha=.80

My child gets along well with the other children in care.

My child likes the other children.

15-Item Parent Scale Measuring Quality of Child Care, N=862. Alpha=.91

My child feels safe and secure in care.

The caregiver is warm and affectionate toward my child.

It's a healthy place for my child.

My child is treated with respect.

My child is safe with this caregiver.

My child gets a lot of individual attention.

My caregiver and I share information.

My caregiver is open to new information and learning.

My caregiver shows she (he) knows a lot about children and their needs.

The caregiver handles discipline matters easily without being harsh.

My child likes the caregiver.

My caregiver is supportive of me as a parent.

There are a lot of creative activities going on.

It's an interesting place for my child.

My caregiver is happy to see my child.

Scales Measuring Sources of Parent's Flexibility

Work Flexibility 5 items Alpha=.74

Our work schedule keeps changing. (-)

My shift and work schedule cause extra stress for me and my child. (-)

Where I work it's difficult to deal with child care problems during working hours. (-)

My life is hectic. (-)

I find it difficult to balance work and family. (-)

Family Flexibility 4 items Alpha=.78

I have someone I can share home and care responsibilities with.

I'm on my own in raising my child. (-)

Do you have a spouse or partner who is employed?

1. No spouse or partner.
2. Spouse or partner employed full time.
3. Spouse or partner employed part time.
4. Spouse not employed.

In your family, who takes responsibility for child-care arrangements?

1. I do completely.
2. Mostly I do.
3. Equally shared with spouse or other.
4. Mostly spouse or other does.
5. Spouse or other does completely.

Caregiver Flexibility 4 items Alpha=.81

My caregiver understands my job and what goes on for me at work.

My caregiver is willing to work with me about my schedule.

I rely on my caregiver to be flexible about my hours.

I can count on my caregiver when I can't be there.

Scales Measuring Accessibility of Child Care, Options, and Choice

Found a caregiver who shares my values 3 items Alpha=.80

I found a caregiver who shares my values.

I like the way my caregiver views the world.

My caregiver and I see eye to eye on most things.

Child-care options in the neighborhood 5 items Alpha=.77

I've had difficulty finding the child care I want. (-)

There are good choices for child care where I live.

In my neighborhood child care is hard to find. (-)

When I made this arrangement, I had more than one option.

In choosing child care, I've felt I had to take whatever I could get. (-)

Transportation a problem. 4 items Alpha=.61

My child care is too far from home. (-)

Transportation is a big problem for me. (-)

Getting to work is a long commute. (-)

Getting my child places is difficult for me. (-)

Scales Measuring Perceived Affordability

Difficulty paying for child care 3 items Alpha=.78

I have difficulty paying for child care.

I worry about making ends meet.

The cost of child care prevents me from getting the kind I want.

Have some choice about how much to work 2 items Alpha=.84

I have some choice about whether to work or how much.

I can (or could) afford to work part time.