

**STRATEGIES**

Health and Child Care  
Materials and Equipment  
Professional Development  
Training /Technical Assistance

## Assessment of Knowledge and Skills

*Many initiatives aim to increase participants' knowledge and skills. Instruments to assess these changes can be administered at different times depending on your purpose.*

*This instrument can be used to measure changes in knowledge and skills, an outcome anticipated from professional development initiatives, those that offer training or technical assistance as well as those that offer materials and equipment with supplemental advice and health and child care initiatives. The questionnaire, which was developed by Bank Street College of Education to evaluate a training series, can be used as a screening tool to assess providers' knowledge before they participate in the initiative, as a measure of the effect of the initiative, or for both purposes. This questionnaire was used to assess changes in participants' knowledge about child development: you can adapt the questions to reflect the content your initiative offers.*

*The ways in which pre-tests and short-term and long-term post-tests can be used are indicated below:*

### **Pre-test only administered**

- *Nearly always a pre-test is administered before an initiative/program. When the pre-test is used alone and administered before the initiative/program, it functions as a needs assessment tool to determine participants' level of knowledge of a particular topic before they participate in an initiative/program. The same form could be only administered after participants have completed the program/initiative. In this case, it could be used to assess prior knowledge retrospectively*

### **Post-test only administered.**

- **Immediate follow-up.** *A post-test administered right after an educational activity indicates what participants know at that time. Without a pre-test baseline, however, you will not know whether participants learned the material from your educational activity or knew it before they participated in it.*
- **Longer-term follow-up.** *A post-test administered some months after the educational activity can indicate how much knowledge the providers retained.*

### **Pre-test and post-test both administered.**

*When a pre-test is administered to participants before an educational activity and a post-test is administered to them right after it ends, you will be able to assess how much the educational activity increased participants' knowledge by comparing pre-test and post-test scores.*

## Assessment of Knowledge and Skills

Participant ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Please read the following statements about young children and parenting practices. Then circle the response that most nearly describes your agreement or disagreement with the statements:

**1. Punishing a child is the only way to get him or her to behave.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**2. Before a child is old enough to talk, it is not necessary for the parent to talk to the child.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**3. Preschoolers are interested in playing "pretend" and "make-believe."**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**4. Preschoolers can get up in time for school in the morning without any help from their parents.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**5. A good parent does not need to ask anyone else for help in raising his or her child.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**6. It is normal for a two-year-old child to say "no" when the parent tells her to do something.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**7. Three-year-olds should know their numbers and letters.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**8. Parents have very little influence over their child's success in school.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**9. If a parent doesn't like the way her child is behaving, a good way to deal with it is to distract his attention with something else.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**10. Children don't learn much of anything from helping their parents cook or do chores around the house.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**11. It is important for parents to take some time by themselves, away from their children.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**12. Toddlers should be able to sit quietly in the clinic waiting room or in church.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**13. Preschoolers are too young to get upset about seeing their parents fight.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**14. One characteristic of three-year-olds is that they ask a lot of questions.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**15. Parents shouldn't tell their children if a relative has died.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**16. A child who is very curious about people and things is showing disrespect.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**17. Parents should encourage children to express their feelings, both good and bad.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**18. As soon as a mother has a child, she should know how to raise the child.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**19. It is possible to spoil an infant one year of age or younger.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know

**20. A child knows how to read when he or she can sound out the words in a book.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree      Don't Know