HOME OBSERVATION FOR MEASUREMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (HOME) INVENTORY

Author:	Caldwell, B., & Bradley, R.
Date:	1984
Construct:	Child Development, Parenting Skills
Standardized:	Yes
Instrument Type(s):	Screening tool
Uses of Information:	Measure the stimulation potential of a child's early developmental environment. Developed as a substitute for reliance on social class or socioeconomic status as indices of the adequacy of a child's home environment.
Environment:	Home environment
Description:	The HOME Inventory attempts direct, relatively standardized measurement of environmental and interaction factors believed to be associated with adequate child welfare services. The Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) Inventory (Caldwell & Bradley, 1984) is designed to measure the quality and quantity of stimulation and support available to a child in the home environment. The focus is on the child in the environment and the child as a recipient of inputs from objects, events, and transactions occurring in connection with the family surroundings. The initial version of the Inventory is called the Infant/Toddler (IT) HOME. It is designed for use during infancy (birth to age 3). It is composed of 45 items clustered into 6 subscales: 1) Parental Responsivity, 2) Acceptance of Child, 3) Organization of the Environment, 4) Learning Materials, 5) Parental Involvement, and 6) Variety in Experience. Three more versions of the Inventory have been developed since that time: The Early Childhood (EC) HOME is designed for use between 3 and 6 years of age. It contains 55 items clustered into 8 subscales: 1) Learning Materials, 2) Language Stimulation, 3) Physical Environment, 4) Parental Responsivity, 5) Learning Stimulation, 6) Modeling

	of Social Maturity, 7) Variety in Experience, and 8) Acceptance of Child. The Middle Childhood (MC) HOME is designed for use between 6 and 10 years. It contains 59 items clustered into 8 subscales: 1) Parental Responsivity, 2) Physical Environment, 3) Learning Materials, 4) Active Stimulation, 5) Encouraging Maturity, 6) Emotional Climate, 7) Parental Involvement, and 8) Family Participation. The Early Adolescent (EA) HOME is designed for use from ages 10 to 15. It contains 60 items clustered into 7 subscales: 1) Physical Environment, 2) Learning Materials, 3) Modeling, 4) Instructional Activities, 5) Regulatory Activities, 6) Variety of Experience, and 7) Acceptance & Responsivity.
References:	Bradley (1982), Bradley (1994), Bradley & Caldwell (1976), Bradley & Caldwell (1979) http://www.ualr.edu/crtldept/home4.htm
Cost:	Comprehensive Manual: $50 Standard Manual: $40 Child Care HOME Manual: $30 Infant Toddler Forms: $15 per pad Early Childhood Forms: $25 per package of 50 forms Middle and Early Adolescent Forms: $12.50 per package of 25 forms
Availability of Test Manual:	Yes
Contact Information:	Lorraine Coulson HOME INVENTORY LLC, Distribution Center 2627 Winsor Drive Eau Claire, WI 54703 Tel : 715.835.4393, Email: lrcoulson@ualr.edu Web : www.ualr.edu/crtldept/home4.htm
Instructions:	The HOME Inventory is to be completed by a person who goes to the home when the child is awake and can be observed interacting with the mother or primary caretaker. The authors state that “in order to cover certain important transactions not likely to occur during the visit, it was necessary to base about one-third of the items upon

	parental report." The authors also recommend limiting measurement to one child at a time. The target child must be present and awake so that he or she "can be observed in his or her normal routine for that day…no assumption is made that the presence of another person in this home will not in some way distort the parent-child interaction."
Administrator:	The HOME Inventory is designed to be a measure of the stimulation potential of a child's home environment and a valid measure of a child's development completed by a person who goes to the home when the child is awake and can be observed interacting with the mother or primary caretaker. The authors state that "in order to cover certain important transactions not likely to occur during the visit, it is suggested that about one-third of the items be based on parent/guardian report. The authors recommend limiting measurement to one child in the family at a time.
Qualification:	Not specified
Training Required:	Only experienced interviewers are able to handle the rather complex dual tasks of semi-structured questioning and observation. Social workers at social services agencies should find it feasible since they could base it on multiple visits to a family, if need be, and may have other sources of information as well.
Administration Time:	Approximately one hour for the entire procedure
Respondents:	Children: The authors recommend limiting the measurement to one child in a family at a time.
Scales/Item Options::	There are six subscales of the Birth to Three version (45 items total). Examples are below: 1. Emotional and Verbal Responsivity of Mother (11 items): *Mother spontaneously vocalizes to child at least twice during visit (exclude scolding).* 2. Avoidance of Restriction and Punishment (8 items): *Mother does not shout at child during visit.* 3. Organization of Physical and Temporal Environment (6 items): *When Mother is away, care is provided by one of three regular substitutes.*

	There are eight subscales of the Preschool version (55 items total). Examples are below: 1. Stimulation Through Toys, Games, and Reading Materials (11 items): *Toys of games facilitating learning numbers (blocks with numbers, books about numbers, games with numbers, etc.* 2. Language Stimulation (7 items): *Parent teaches child some simple manners–to say "Please," "Thank you," "I'm sorry."* Physical Environment Safe, Clean, and Conducive to Development (7 items): *There is at least 100 square feet of living space per person in the home.*
Scoring:	Information needed to score the Inventory is obtained during a 45 to 90 minute home visit done during a time when the target child and the child's primary caregiver are present and awake. Other family members, and even guests, can be present, but their presence is not necessary. The procedure is a low-key, semi-structured observation and interview done so as to minimize intrusiveness and allow family members to act normally. Throughout the course of the visit, observations of parent/child interaction and discussions with the parent about objects, events, and transactions that occur are probed and interpreted from the child's point of view. The intent is to understand the child's opportunities and experiences; in essence, to understand what life is like for the particular child in the child's most intimate surroundings.
Languages:	English
Psychometric Properties:	Reliability: The reliability for the Birth to Three HOME came from a sample of 174 ethnically and socio-economically diverse families residing in Little Rock, AK. Internal consistency (KR-20 coefficient) was .89 for the total HOME and averaged .70 for the six subscales. HOME data were available for children in 91 families when the children were 6, 12, and 24 months of age. Intra-class correlations, computed as a measure of stability for total HOME scores, were .57 for 6 versus 12 months and .76 for 12 versus 24 months. Reliability results for the Preschool HOME, using a

previous 80-item version completed with 238 families, are similar to those summarized for the Birth to Three HOME.

Validity: The HOME Inventory is intended to be a more valid measure of a child's developmental environment than family socioeconomic status only. Nevertheless, the two measures should be related to some extent. The HOME subscales for both versions correlate moderately (.3-.5) with such socioeconomic status measures as parents' education and occupation, father's presence, and home crowding. The HOME Inventory, particularly the Birth to Three version, has been extensively used in studies of the cognitive development of children.