

FAMILY NEEDS SCALE

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| Author: | Dunst, C. J., Trivette, C.M., & Jenkins, V. |
| Date: | 1986 |
| Construct: | Formal/Informal Sources of Support and Involvement |
| Standardized: | Yes |
| Instrument Type(s): | Parent self-report |
| Uses of Information: | Providers can use the FSS scale results to identify the areas in a family's support network that need to be strengthened or accessed to better meet the family's needs. The results can also be used to initiate inquiries into issues related to the support network. The FSS might be useful as a pretest/posttest measure of perceived helpfulness of the program to the family (in relation to the family's level of involvement in the program). The book provides a number of case studies to illustrate how the information can be used. |
| Environment: | Unspecified |
| Description: | The self-report Family Support Scale (FSS) measures parents' satisfaction with the support they receive in raising young children. |
| References: | Dunst(1985); Dunst (1986); Dunst, Trivette, & Deal (1988); Dunst, Trivette, & Deal (1994); Holroyd (1985) |
| Cost: | <i>Enabling and Empowering Families</i> : \$25 \$10 per batch of 10 scales |
| Availability of Test Manual: | Unknown |
| Contact Information: | Brookline Books Tel: 617.558.8010 or 800.666.BOOK Web: www.brooklinebooks.com |



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| Instructions: | A parent's responses are used to open up a discussion as to why he or she uses or does not use various means of support and resources. The book provides a Family Support Plan form and a Profile of Family Needs and Support form for the agency to use. The needs and support form can be used to record the names of providers and the resources they are expected to provide to help the family address an identified need. The family support form enables the agency to mobilize resources to address needs and to monitor the progress of the intervention. |
| Administrator: | Family members, caregivers of young children |
| Qualification: | Unspecified, self-administered by family members |
| Training Required: | Unspecified, however, the book published by Brookline Books, entitled <i>Supporting & Strengthening Families: Methods Strategies and Practices</i> , is a collection of papers updating the thinking and practices described in <i>Enabling and Empowering Families</i> and building and elaborating upon the model described in the earlier book. |
| Administration Time: | Parent can complete the scale in 10 minutes. An early intervention practitioner can review the answers and interpret the scale, identifying places for concern, in under 10 minutes. |
| Respondents: | Family members or caregivers of young children |
| Scales/ Item Options: | <p>The scale consists of 18 items covering such sources of support as the immediate family, relatives, friends, and others in the family's social network, social organizations, and specialized and generic professional services. In addition, the scale provides two open items for parents to assess other sources of support not included in the 18 items. The parent rates each source of support on a 5-point Likert scale (ranging from <i>not at all helpful</i> [1] to <i>extremely helpful</i> [5]).</p> <p>Having money to buy necessities and pay bills. Having someone to talk to about my child; having time</p> |



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| Scoring: | The parent answers how helpful various sources of support have been in terms of raising his/her child(ren) by circling <i>Not Available, Not at All Helpful, Sometimes Helpful, Generally Helpful, Very Helpful, or Extremely Helpful.</i> |
| Languages: | English |
| Psychometric Properties: | <p>Reliability: (1) Internal consistency reliability: coefficient alpha (on the 18-item scale) = .77; (2) Split-half reliability (using the Spearman-Brown formula): .75; and (3) Test-retest reliability (1 month interval): Correlation was .75 for the average correlation among the 18 scale items and .91 for the total scale scores. Test-retest reliability (18-month interval): Correlation was .41 for the 18 scale items and .47 for the total scale scores.</p> <p>Validity: (1) Criterion validity: The authors compared the results on the FSS scale to results on the Parent-Child Play Scale (Dunst 1986) and selected subscales on the Questionnaire on Resources and Stress (Holroyd 1985). The FSS total scale score was consistently, but weakly, related to a number of parent and family outcomes, including personal well-being (correlation = .28), the integrity of the family unit (correlation = .18), parent perceptions of child behavior (correlation = .19), and opportunities to engage in parent-child play (correlation = .40) (Dunst 1985).</p> |

