

Inventory of Social Support

Author:	Dunst, C. J., Trivette, C.M.
Date:	1988
Construct:	Formal and Informal Sources of Support, Social Connections
Standardized:	yes
Instrument Type(s):	Self-report survey
Uses of Information:	The <i>Inventory of Social Support</i> provides a way of determining the types of help and assistance that are provided to a respondent by different individuals, groups, and agencies that make up a person's personal social network. The information can be used to develop intervention plans and as a pre-post measure of social connections.
Environment:	The respondent completes the tool in a center or home setting with staff available to answer questions. As needed, the form may be completed in an interview with the parent
Description:	The <i>Inventory of Social Support</i> has two sections: the first asks the respondent to indicate the amount of contact—face to face, in a group, or by telephone or e-mail—he or she has with different members of the person's social network. In the second section of the inventory, the respondent is asked to indicate whom he or she goes to or receives help from for 12 different types of aid and assistance.
References:	Dunst, C. J. & Trivette, C. M. (1988a). A family systems model of early intervention with handicapped and developmentally at-risk children. In D. P. Powell (Ed.), <i>Parent education as early childhood intervention: Emerging directions in theory, research, and practice</i> (pp. 131-179). Norwood, NJ: Ablex. McCubbin, H. I., Comeau, J. K., & Harkins, J. A. (1981). Family inventory of resources for management. In H. I. McCubbin & J. M. Patterson (Eds.), <i>Systematic assessment of family stress, resources and coping</i> (pp. 67-69). St. Paul, MN: Family Stress and Coping Project.
Cost:	\$25.00 for a 25-unit license download. Printed versions are available for order. A bulk discount for more than 100 unit licenses is available upon request.
Availability of Test Manual:	Unspecified. Contact Winterberry Press for technical information regarding the use of the Inventory of Social Support. info@wbpress.com 1-800-824-1182
Contact Information:	Please visit the author's site http://www.wbpress.com and enter 8814 in the search field.
Instructions:	In the first section of the inventory, the respondent reports how much contact they have had with a given individual or group using a 5-point scale in which 1 indicates "Not At All" and 5 indicates "Almost Every Day". In the second part of the survey, 12 types of help or assistance are listed. The respondent is asked to identify the groups or individuals they go to for each type of help or assistance listed.
Administrator:	Home visitors, parent educators, family support program staff.



Inventory of Social Support

Qualification:	Unspecified.
Training Required:	No training requirement is specified by the developers. Some training support may be found in <i>Supporting and Strengthening Families: Methods, Strategies, and Practices</i> , published by Brookline Publishing.
Administration Time:	The inventory takes between 15 and 25 minutes to complete.
Respondents:	Parents or caregivers.
Scales/ Item Options:	<p>The first section asks the respondent to rate how often they have contact with different individuals or groups in the past month. The rating options are: not at all, Once or twice, up to 10 times, up to 20 times, almost every day. Item examples include:</p> <p>How frequently have you had contact with each of the following during the <i>past month</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spouse or partner• My Parents• Early Childhood Intervention Program <p>The second section asks the respondent to identify the groups or individuals they go to when they need specific types of help or assistance. Item examples include:</p> <p>Which person(s) and/or groups provide you help or assistance with each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who do you go to for help or to talk with?• Who encourages or keeps you going when things get hard?• Who helps you learn about services for your child and family?
Scoring:	The inventory does not yield a numeric score; rather, the inventory is organized in a matrix format. A completed matrix provides a graphic display of the respondent's personal social network in terms of both <i>source</i> and <i>type</i> of support.
Languages:	English.
Psychometric Properties:	Details of the psychometric properties are available with purchase of the scale.

