

# F E A S

## The Functional Emotional Assessment Scale

For Infancy and Early Childhood

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- Functional Emotional Assessment Scale:
  - It is an instrument designed to assess emotional functioning in children from 7 months through 4 years.
  - Standardized way of measuring the child's mastery of each of the 6 functional developmental levels, outlined by Greenspan and Wieder.

# General Procedures

- The caregiver is asked to play with the child in a structured play observation, which is videotaped.
- Standardized version is supposed to be a 15 minute play observation

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- A variety of developmentally appropriate toys should be provided, including toys that have the potential for symbolic play and sensory exploration ( tactile and movement play)

# 3 sections to the play observation

- 1. Symbolic
- Toys such as a baby doll, kitchen toys (plates and dishes), small cars, a phone, boat or airplane, etc. Toys should be appropriate to child's age.

# FEAS: 2nd section

Tactile play toys ( sensory)

- Textured toys such as Koosh balls, furry puppets, other textured balls, a wind-up musical toy, rice, beans, shaving cream, beads, etc.

# FEAS: 3rd section

- Vestibular/movement section
- Equipment may include a spinning board, a large therapy ball, a large bolster, swings, a ramp, a slide, etc.

# FEAS Scoring Form

- It is composed of a questionnaire that has specific questions regarding the child's observed behavior in each of the 6 developmental levels.
- When play behaviors change due to the introduction of different materials, this can be noted on the scoring form.
- Examiner may facilitate child's play if appropriate.



# Examples of questions

Regulation and Interest in the World: Level I

Is the child interested and attentive to play with the toys?

Does the child explore objects freely without caution?

# Scoring

- There is a 0 to 3 scale for most items.
- 0 = not at all or very brief
- 1 = present some of the time, observed several times
- 2 = consistently present, observed many times
- Indicate N/O for behaviors not observed

# Scores

- Scores are added up separately for caregiver and for child
- Scores used to divide into 3 categories:
  - Normal
  - At Risk
  - Deficient

# Use of information

- Professionals who use the FEAS for feedback to families, rather than research, may choose to write a more descriptive assessment report rather than give specific scores, outlining the areas of strength and weakness for that child and relating this to the treatment program for that child.

# Examples of Questions

## Regulation and Interest in the World: Level I

“Is the child interested and attentive to play with the toys?”

“Underreactivity: Appears sluggish or withdrawn”

“Overreactivity: Appears overaroused by toys and environment”

# Level 2

Forming Relationships, Attachment, and Engagement

Example: “ Shows emotional interest and connection with caregiver by vocalizing and smiling at her.”

# Level 3

Two-way , Purposeful Communication

“Gives signals: Initiates purposeful and intentional actions in play with objects.”

Closes circles: Responds to caregiver’s cues in contingent manner.”

# Level 4

Behavioral Organization, Problem-Solving,  
and Internalization ( A complex Sense of  
Self)

- One example: “ incorporating some idea the caregiver introduces into the play, copying.”



# Level 5

Representational Capacity (Elaboration)

Symbolic play with the toys that goes beyond simple concrete actions ( feeding self, etc.)

# Level 6

## Representational Differentiation

- (Building Bridges Between Ideas and Emotional Thinking)

# Social Emotional Growth Chart

- The Greenspan Social-Emotional Growth Chart is based on a parent questionnaire on the FIR Functional Emotional Developmental Capacities of their child
- It is now included on the Bayley Scales Kit of Infant and Early Childhood Development

# References

- All material presented in this power point has been taken directly from the following book:

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# Social-Emotional Growth Chart

- The Social-Emotional Growth Chart was field-tested on a representative sample of 1500 infants and young children and found to discriminate between children with problems and disorders and those without. The study also validated the age predictions of the DIR FEDL'S.

# National Health Survey

- On a national health survey given to over 15,000 families, the Federal Government's National Center for Health Statistics used questions from the DIR FEDC and found that it identified 30% more infants and children at risk than prior health surveys. This was the first time emotional variables were used in this National Health Survey.