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Paternal Acceptance and Nurturance Received and Fathers' Acceptance and Nurturance of Their Sons

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PATERNAL ACCEPTANCE AND NURTURANCE RECEIVED AND
FATHERS' ACCEPTANCE AND NURTURANCE OF THEIR SONS

BY

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ABSTRACT

The relationship of paternal acceptance and nurturance received and fathers' acceptance and nurturance of their sons was investigated. One-hundred and twenty-six (126) male undergraduate students and their fathers participated in the study. Each subject completed an abbreviated version of the Family Data Form (FDF), which was used to obtain individual and family demographic information. The Family Relations Inventory (FRI) was utilized to measure subjects' perceptions of the degree of paternal acceptance and nurturance received. A structural equation model was employed and four separate path coefficients were obtained; 1) fathers' paternal nurturance received to sons' paternal nurturance received, 2) fathers' paternal acceptance received to sons' paternal acceptance received, 3) fathers' paternal nurturance received to sons' paternal acceptance received, and 4) fathers' paternal acceptance received to sons' paternal nurturance received. Although the structural model was adequate in terms of goodness of fit, the variables tested did not account for much of the variance. A statistically significant positive correlation was found only for 1) fathers' paternal nurturance received to sons' paternal nurturance received. Reasons for this as well as suggestions for future research concerning the father-son relationship are discussed.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES.....	v
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....	1
METHOD.....	3
Subjects.....	3
Procedure.....	3
Measures.....	3
RESULTS.....	5
Scale Score Measures.....	5
Repeated Measures Results.....	5
Structural Model Results.....	6
DISCUSSION.....	7
LIST OF REFERENCES.....	10
TABLE 1.....	12
TABLE 2.....	14
TABLE 3.....	16
TABLE 4.....	17
TABLE 5.....	18
FIGURE 1.....	19
APPENDIX.....	20
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	33

LIST OF TABLES

1. FRI FATHER NURTURANCE ITEMS.....	12
2. FRI FATHER ACCEPTANCE ITEMS.....	14
3. SCALE SCORES FOR FOUR SCALES.....	16
4. PEARSON PRODUCT-MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS FOR FOUR SCALES.....	17
5. SCALE SCORES FOR EIGHT SUB-SCALES.....	18

We have become increasingly aware of the importance of the father-son relationship in what Lamb (1979) has termed "an era of paternal rediscovery." Numerous studies suggest that from early in infancy fathers have the potential for impacting significantly on the personality development of their sons (Biller & Meredith, 1974; Lamb, 1977, 1978; Parke, 1979; Willemssen, et. al., 1974).

Early research concerning the impact of the fathering role on sons' development has focused on the area of masculine sex-role learning. In general, studies examining father influences on sex-role development in pre-adolescent sons have suggested that sons' sex-role orientation is a function of strong identification with their fathers (Biller, 1971; Mussen & Distler, 1959; Payne & Mussen, 1956). Moreover, it has been shown that sons' identification with fathers is significantly facilitated by paternal attributes of warmth, acceptance, and nurturance (Biller, 1969; Payne & Mussen, 1956; Sears, 1953). Similar results have been reported in studies of adolescent males (Mussen, 1961; Payne & Mussen, 1956).

Subsequent research examining the impact of father-son interaction on sons' cognitive ability and achievement has yielded findings suggestive of a positive relationship between paternal acceptance and nurturance received and higher intellectual ability and school achievement in both pre-adolescent and adolescent boys (Epstein & Radin, 1976; Radin, 1972; Shaw & White, 1965).

Studies assessing the father-son relationship relative to sons' personality adjustment have produced similar results pointing to a

consistent, positive relationship between degree of paternal acceptance and nurturance received and personality adjustment in adolescent and college age sons (Bergenstal, 1981; Block, 1971; Reuter & Biller, 1973).

A review of the literature concerning the role of the father-son relationship in sons' psychological and social functioning suggests that beginning in infancy the father-son relationship has a significant impact throughout childhood and adolescence, especially in the areas of masculine sex-role identification, cognitive ability and achievement, and personality adjustment. Nonetheless, empirical information regarding the impact of the father-son relationship on sons' adult functioning, and particularly the task of fathering, is relatively unavailable.

Research exploring the relationship between earlier father-son interactions and sons' later parenting in adulthood would make a significant contribution, enhancing our knowledge of lifespan development. The specific objective of the present study was to investigate the relationship between the quality of fathering received and sons' acceptance and nurturance toward their own children. Participating fathers and sons each completed measures of their perceptions of paternal acceptance and nurturance received. Interrelationships between fathers' and sons' perceived paternal nurturance and acceptance were examined through the utilization of a structural equation model.

METHOD

Subjects

One-hundred and twenty-six (126) male undergraduate students, enrolled in psychology classes at the University of Rhode Island, and their fathers served as subjects in the study. Thus, a total of 252 persons are included in the study. With very few exceptions, subjects were white and middle class, and all were from intact families. Students ranged in age from 18-24 with a mean age of 20.4 (SD = 1.6), whereas participating fathers were between 39-70 years of age with a mean age of 49.8 (SD = 5.8).

Procedure

Each subject in the study completed a single 10-page questionnaire consisting of two parts. Part 1 is an abbreviated version of the Family Data Form (FDF) and part 2 is comprised of items from the Family Relations Inventory (FRI). The same questionnaire was utilized for fathers and sons. Students were solicited during regularly scheduled class meetings and received extra credit points for their own participation and that of their fathers. In most cases, questionnaires were mailed home to fathers who returned them in completed form to the examiner.

Measures

The Family Data Form (FDF), developed by Huckle (1984), was used to obtain individual and family demographic information from each subject. An abbreviated version of the FDF, consisting of 10 items, was utilized

in the present study. The Family Relations Inventory (FRI), originally developed by Brunkan & Crites (1964), and later analyzed psychometrically for component structure by Huckle (1984), was used to assess subjects' perceptions of the quality of fathering received. The original FRI consists of 202 true-false items, each measuring a specific parental behavior. The instrument yields six scale scores, representing three parental attitudes (Acceptance, Avoidance, Concentration) associated with both mothers and fathers. Reliability and validity estimates for the original scale are satisfactory, and are reported by Huckle (1984).

The basis of Huckle's (1984) work was to assess the FRI's component structure, since there had not been any previous studies of this nature, and to develop an empirically based procedure for scoring. Four experimentally derived scales were identified by Huckle (1984) constituting measures of the following: a) Father Acceptance, b) Father Nurturance, c) Mother Acceptance, and d) Mother Nurturance. The obtained components were show to have adequate internal consistency (Huckle, 1984). Alpha coefficients computed for each of the four scales ranged from .81 to .88. Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients calculated among scales ranged from .24 to .53, suggesting moderate to substantial relationships among the four scales.

The present study utilized scales a) and b), each consisting of 20 items, to assess subjects perceptions of the degree of paternal acceptance and nurturance received. Father nurturance items are found in Table 1. Father acceptance items are found in Table 2. Subjects were instructed to rate each item on a 6-point scale ranging from "strongly

agree" to "strongly disagree" (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = disagree somewhat, 4 = agree somewhat, 5 = agree, 6 = strongly agree). A sample questionnaire is provided in the Appendix.

RESULTS

Scale Score Measures

Initially, scale score measures were obtained for each of the four scales. Means, standard deviations, and coefficient alphas for each scale are presented in Table 3. The scales were shown to have adequate internal consistency as alpha coefficients ranged from .86 to .92. Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients were computed among scales and are reported in Table 4.

Repeated Measures Results

Fathers and sons were treated as matched pairs and two repeated measures analyses were completed to compare the amounts of paternal nurturance and acceptance reported by fathers and sons. Results of the analyses yielded significant differences between fathers and sons for both the degree of nurturance and of acceptance reported. Sons rated their perceived nurturance higher, with a mean rating for sons of 4.77 compared to a mean of 4.34 for fathers ($t = 4.37$, $df = 125$, $p < .001$). Sons' perceptions of paternal acceptance were higher than those of fathers as well. Sons had a mean rating of 3.76 compared to a mean of 3.50 for fathers ($t = 2.89$, $df = 125$, $p < .005$).

Structural Model Results

A structural equation model was employed to assess the relationship between paternal acceptance and nurturance reported by fathers and sons. The model is presented in Figure 1. Each of the four scales were divided into two 10-item component sub-scales in order to provide multiple indicators for the constructs of acceptance and nurturance. Scale score measures were computed for the eight sub-scales and are basically consistent with means, standard deviations, and coefficient alphas for the four scales. Sub-scale measures are reported in Table 5.

The computer program LISREL VI (Joreskog & Sorbom, 1984) was utilized for data analysis. Four separate path coefficients were obtained and subsequently tested for significance. Path coefficients were derived for the following pairs of variables: 1) fathers' paternal nurturance received to sons' paternal nurturance received, 2) fathers' paternal acceptance received to sons' paternal acceptance received, 3) fathers' paternal nurturance received to sons' paternal acceptance received, 4) fathers' paternal acceptance received to sons' paternal nurturance received. Of the four path parameter estimates, only 1) fathers' paternal nurturance received to sons' paternal nurturance received was found to be significant. Path parameter estimates can be found in Figure 1. All factor loadings were significant, ranging from .83 to .99.

Correlations between fathers' reported acceptance and nurturance received and sons' perceived acceptance and nurturance received, respectively, were also calculated to assess relationships between these

constructs. These correlation coefficients can also be found in Figure 1. The structural equation model was then tested for overall goodness of fit. The model seemed to fit adequately with a chi-square = 27.80, $df = 14$, $p < .02$, a goodness of fit index of .94, and a root mean square residual of .03.

DISCUSSION

Based on previous research suggesting that greater paternal nurturance and acceptance is significantly related to positive sex-role development, positive personality adjustment, and higher academic achievement in young and adolescent boys, it is not surprising that a significant positive relationship was found between fathers' and sons' perceptions of paternal nurturance received. What is surprising is that among the four path parameter estimates tested, only the relationship of fathers' to sons' perceptions of paternal nurturance received was found to be significant.

Most notably, the results showed no significant relationship between fathers' and sons' perceived paternal acceptance. Moreover, correlations between fathers' perceived paternal nurturance and sons' reported paternal acceptance and fathers' perceived paternal acceptance and sons' perceptions of paternal nurturance, respectively, were not shown to be significant either. It's possible, however, that the sample size may have prevented the two cross-correlation paths from being significant, since with a greater N , path parameter estimates of .2 - .3 probably would have been significant.

Of significant interest at the cross-correlational level is the finding of a negative correlational coefficient value for fathers' perceived paternal acceptance and sons' perceived paternal nurturance. The suggestion of an inverse relationship between these two constructs is very surprising. One possible explanation is that a compensatory factor is influencing this result. It may be that fathers who receive low paternal acceptance desire to compensate for this by displaying greater paternal nurturance toward their sons. This is a speculative proposal since the finding of an inverse relationship between fathers' paternal acceptance and sons' paternal nurturance is not a statistically significant one. Nonetheless, it may be useful to test this hypothesis in future studies relative to the relationship of these two constructs.

It is also interesting to note that although the structural equation model showed adequate goodness of fit, the variables tested did not account for much of the variance. Path parameter estimates were relatively low, while prediction of error values were high (refer to Figure 1). The degree of fathers' perceived paternal nurturance and acceptance has some impact on sons' perceived paternal nurturance and acceptance, yet what sons receive is not strongly determined by the quality of nurturance and acceptance received by fathers.

Variables other than what fathers experience are impacting on the sons' own perceptions of what they receive from their fathers. Sons' perceptions of paternal acceptance and nurturance may be influenced by such personality attributes as self-esteem, social competence, or academic achievement. The perceptions of sons regarding what they receive

from fathers may also be influenced by the degree of acceptance and nurturance received from mothers. These variables may be useful to consider in future studies. In any case, there is an important need for more extensive research concerning the relationship of the fathering one receives and one's own fathering as an adult.

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TABLE 1

FRI FATHER NURTURANCE ITEMS

Item Number	Item
20.	At times when I needed him most, my father was usually busy or not around. (R)
21.	My father didn't care about what kind of grades I got in school. (R)
22.	I often felt that my father wished he could get rid of me. (R)
26.	My father seldom gave me gifts - even on special occasions. (R)
28.	My father was usually interested in what I was doing.
30.	My father spent very little time with me when I was growing up. (R)
32.	My father was not concerned about the company I kept. (R)
39.	I could rely upon my father if it was necessary.
40.	If I got into serious trouble my father would do what he could to help.
48.	My father seldom encouraged me in anything. (R)
51.	When I got into serious trouble I could expect very little help from my father in getting things straightened out. (R)
53.	My father always seemed to be very busy when I asked him for something. (R)
54.	My father seldom took the time to explain things to me so that I could understand them. (R)
55.	My father had the knack of knowing just when to "put his foot down."
57.	My father never seemed interested in the things I did at school. (R)
59.	When my father promised me something, I knew that he would keep the promise.

TABLE 1 (continued)

FRI FATHER NURTURANCE ITEMS

Item No.	Item
60.	My father was a willing listener if I had a problem.
67.	I felt as if my father was concerned about how I was growing up.
76.	My father seldom showed any interest in my "pet" projects. (R)
82.	My father didn't care when I got home from school or dates. (R)

TABLE 2

FRI FATHER ACCEPTANCE ITEMS

Item No.	Item
3.	If I got into a quarrel, my father would try to show me who was right and why.
4.	My father seldom asked my opinion on anything. (R)
5.	My father thinks I should have as much opportunity as possible within reasonable limits.
6.	I felt that my father understood me.
10.	If I asked my father about sex matters, he would explain them in a manner that I understood.
12.	My father had little patience with me when I helped him on an unfamiliar task. (R)
16.	It was hard for me to talk about my personal thoughts and problems to my father. (R)
23.	I seldom felt that my father criticized me unjustly.
31.	My father used to "snap" at me frequently. (R)
33.	I could "talk back" to my father if I didn't overdo it.
36.	I could tell my father about things that happened on a date without being afraid of prying questions being asked.
37.	My father tried to look at my companions through my eyes.
42.	My father would often abide by my will even though he did not agree.
43.	There were many times when I wished that my father better understood how I felt about things. (R)
44.	I felt like my father was a good friend as well as a parent.
46.	I hardly ever took any of my personal problems to my father. (R)
58.	My father seldom encouraged me in anything. (R)
65.	My father asked for my opinion and considered it seriously.

TABLE 2 (continued)

FRI FATHER ACCEPTANCE ITEMS

Item No.	Item
69.	My father praised me more than he blamed but didn't overdo either one.
80.	When I was a child my father gave me about as much "freedom" as my friends' fathers gave them.

TABLE 3

SCALE SCORES FOR FOUR SCALES

Scale	Mean	SD	Coefficient Alpha
FNUR-S	4.77	.69	.91
FACC-S	3.77	.72	.86
FNUR-F	4.34	.89	.92
FACC-F	3.50	.87	.91

Note. No. of items = 20

N = 126

TABLE 4

PEARSON PRODUCT-MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS

	FACC-F	FNUR-F	FACC-S	FNUR-S
FACC-F	1.00			
FNUR-F	.75*	1.00		
FACC-S	.14	.17	1.00	
FNUR-S	-.04	.08	.67*	1.00

Note. All correlations based on N = 126.

*p < .001

TABLE 5

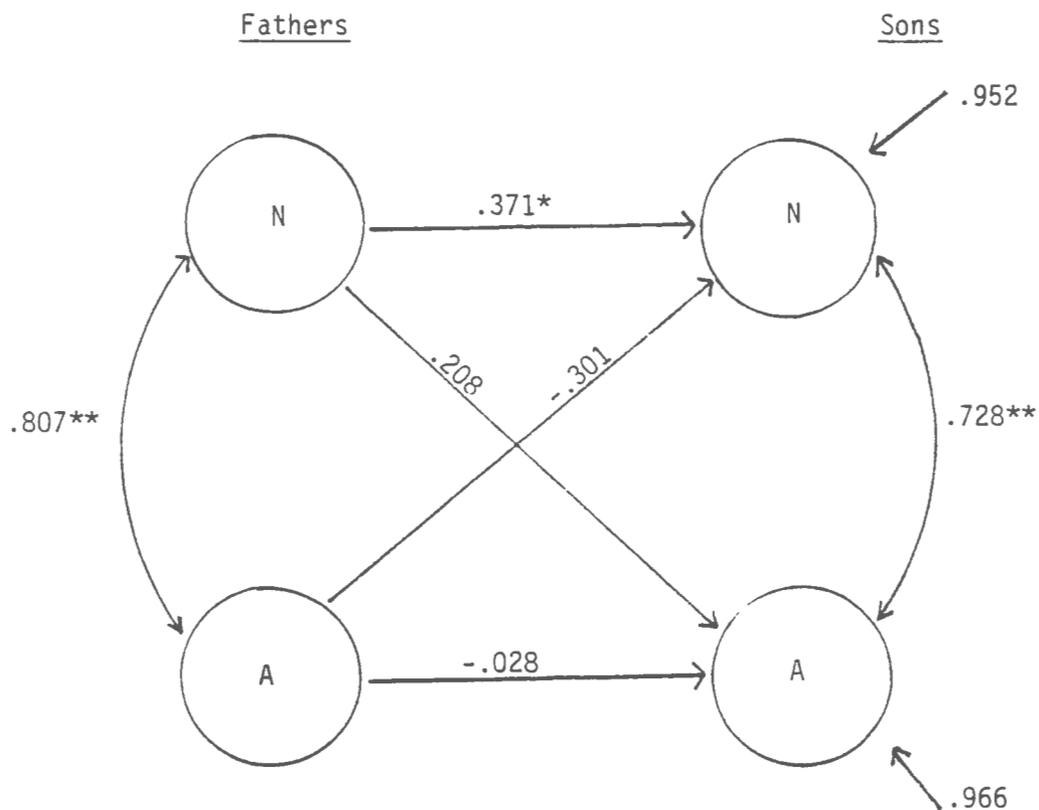
SCALE SCORES FOR EIGHT SUB-SCALES

Scale	Mean	SD	Coefficient Alpha	Skewness	Kurtosis
FNSA	4.76	.76	.86	-.94	.79
FNSB	4.78	.67	.79	-.44	.01
FASA	3.90	.79	.78	-.71	.61
FASB	3.63	.73	.73	-.48	.13
FNFA	4.33	.94	.87	-.57	-.04
FNFB	4.36	.89	.84	-.74	.84
FAFA	3.57	.95	.86	-.21	-.44
FAFB	3.42	.87	.81	-.16	-.37

Note. No. of items = 10

N = 126

FIGURE 1
STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODEL



Note. All path parameter estimates based on $N = 126$.

* $p < .05$
 ** $p < .001$

APPENDIX

PARTICIPANT'S CONSENT FORM

This research project is expected to add to our knowledge of the fathering role. Aside from students receiving research participation credits, we cannot and do not guarantee that participants will derive any direct benefit from the present project. There are no risks inherent in the research project.

Participation in the study is purely voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time. Participants will be asked to complete three questionnaires which inquire about basic demographic and family information. Participation will take no longer than 90 minutes to complete the questionnaires.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Information about participants gathered at any stage in this project will be kept strictly confidential. Record forms will be anonymous and participants will not be personally identified in any published or unpublished reporting of the results.

Participants will have the opportunity to receive a brief summary of the findings at the conclusion of the research project. If participants have any questions they may contact Michael Hansen, Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island at (401) 792-4224.

STATEMENT OF INFORMED CONSENT

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE CONSENT AND I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT.

Signature of Participant

Date

FAMILY DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

PART I

Please begin by answering the first set of questions which ask for specific information about your personal and family history. Answer the questions by either filling in the blanks with the information requested (e.g., your age) or by circling the number corresponding to the multiple-choice answer which best applies to you (e.g., marital status). Be sure to answer all questions as accurately as you can.

1. What is your current age? _____
2. What is your sex? _____
3. What is your marital status?

1 = Single	4 = Widowed
2 = Married	5 = Living with someone as if married
3 = Separated/divorced	
4. Do you have any children? _____ If yes, how many? _____
5. How many brothers and/or sisters do you have? _____
6. How many step/half brothers and/or sisters do you have? _____
7. What is your position in your family?

1 = Only child	3 = Middle child of three or more
2 = Oldest child	4 = Youngest child
8. What is your predominant racial background?

1 = Black	3 = Native American
2 = Caucasian/White	4 = Oriental
9. What is your predominant ethnic background?

1 = British Isles	4 = Italian	7 = Scandanavian
(specify) _____	5 = German	8 = Latin American
2 = French	6 = Slavic	9 = Other _____
3 = Portugese		

FAMILY DATA QUESTIONNAIRE (continued)

10. What is your predominant religious background?

- 1 = Roman Catholic 3 = Jewish 5 = Other _____
2 = Protestant 4 = No religion

The questions which follow pertain to specific information about your mother and your father. If you did not have a mother or a father, answer regarding the person who acted most like a father or mother and indicate his or her relationship to you.

11. I am answering regarding:

- 1 = Mother 2 = Stepmother 3 = Other

12. I am answering regarding:

- 1 = Father 2 = Stepfather 3 = Other

13. What is your mother's age? _____

14. Indicate which of the following categories best describes your mother's occupation:

- 1 = Unskilled or semi-skilled worker (e.g., factory work)
2 = Skilled worker or foreman (e.g., machinist, cook)
3 = Farmer
4 = Clerical or salesperson (but not manager)
5 = Proprietor (i.e., owner of a business)
6 = Professional (e.g., architect, teacher, nurse) or managerial position (e.g., department head, store or office manager)
7 = No occupation outside home

15. Indicate the highest level of education attained by your mother:

- 1 = Some elementary school
2 = Completed elementary school
3 = Some high school
4 = Completed high school

FAMILY DATA QUESTIONNAIRE (continued)

- 5 = Professional, business, or technical training in addition to high school
- 6 = Some college
- 7 = Complete college (i.e., 4 years)
- 8 = Professional, business, or technical training in addition to college
- 9 = Some graduate work
- 10 = Completed graduate degree (e.g., M.A., Ph.D., M.D.)
16. What is your father's age? _____
17. Indicate which of the following categories best describes your father's occupation:
- 1 = Unskilled or semi-skilled worker (e.g., factory work)
- 2 = Skilled worker or foreman (e.g., machinist, cook)
- 3 = Farmer
- 4 = Clerical or salesperson (but not manager)
- 5 = Proprietor (i.e., owner of a business)
- 6 = Professional (e.g., architect, teacher, nurse) or managerial position (e.g., department head, store or office manager)
- 7 = No occupation outside home
18. Indicate the highest level of education attained by your father:
- 1 = Some elementary school
- 2 = Completed elementary school
- 3 = Some high school
- 4 = Completed high school
- 5 = Professional, business, or technical training in addition to high school

FAMILY DATA QUESTIONNAIRE (continued)

6 = Some college

7 = Complete college (e.g., 4 years)

8 = Professional, business, or technical training in addition to college

9 = Some graduate work

10 = Completed graduate degree (e.g., M.A., Ph.D., M.D.)

19. Please indicate which of the following comes closest to your family's total annual income before taxes:

1 = \$7,500 or less

5 = \$35,001 to \$50,000

2 = \$7,501 to \$15,000

6 = \$50,001 or over

3 = \$15,001 to \$25,000

7 = Don't know

4 = \$25,001 to \$35,000

20. Are your natural parents living together?

1 = Yes (skip to question #30)

4 = No, due to the death of my

2 = No, due to a marital separation

parent(s) (skip to ques.#26)

3 = No, due to a divorce

5 = Other (specify)

21. If your parents are separated or divorced, how old were you when they began living apart? _____

22. With whom did you live after your parents' separation and/or divorce?

1 = Mother only

4 = Father only

2 = Mother primarily

5 = Father primarily

3 = Mother and father equally

6 = Other (specify) _____

23. If you lived primarily with one parent, how often did you visit or see your other parent?

1 = Not at all

7 = About every two weeks, predictably

2 = Occasionally, unpredictably

8 = About weekly, predictably

3 = Frequently, unpredictably

9 = More often than weekly, predictably

4 = 1-2 times a year, predictably

5 = 3-6 times a year, predictably

10 = Other (specify) _____

6 = About monthly, predictably

FAMILY DATA QUESTIONNAIRE (continued)

24. How did your parent's separation and/or divorce affect your relationship with your mother?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 = Became much closer | 4 = Became somewhat distant |
| 2 = Became a little bit closer | 5 = Became very distant |
| 3 = No real change | 6 = Other (specify) _____ |
25. How did your parent's separation and/or divorce affect your relationship with your father?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 = Became much closer | 4 = Became somewhat distant |
| 2 = Became a little bit closer | 5 = Became very distant |
| 3 = No real change | 6 = Other (specify) _____ |
26. If your parents' marriage ended, did your mother remarry or live with someone as if married? (If yes, please indicate your age at the time.)
- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 = Yes (age _____) | 2 = No (skip to #28) |
|---------------------|----------------------|
27. If you have a stepfather (or someone who acts like a stepfather), looking back over your relationship with him how close have you and he been?
- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 = Very close | 3 = Somewhat close | 5 = Distant |
| 2 = Close | 4 = Not close | |
28. If your parents' marriage ended, did your father remarry or live with someone as if married? (If yes, please indicate your age at the time.)
- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 = Yes (age _____) | 2 = No (skip to #30) |
|---------------------|----------------------|
29. If you have a stepmother (or someone who acts like a stepmother), looking back over your relationship with her how close have you and she been?
- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 = Very close | 3 = Somewhat close | 5 = Distant |
| 2 = Close | 4 = Not close | |
30. Over the course of your childhood, who was primarily responsible for your day-to-day care?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 = Mother | 5 = Stepfather |
| 2 = Father | 6 = Grandparent |
| 3 = Mother and father equally | 7 = Brother(s)/sister(s) |
| 4 = Stepmother | 8 = One or two consistent babysitters in your home |

- 9 = several different baby sitters
in your home
- 10 = Consistent daycare home/center
- 11 = Several different daycare
homes/centers
- 12 = Other (specify)

PART II FAMILY RELATIONS INVENTORY

The statements which follow concern your relationships with your mother and father from as far back as you can remember. For most people some parts of childhood and adolescence were less satisfactory than they might have been. For this reason, many of the questions ask you to recall what actually happened between you and your parents as you were growing up, compared to how you would have liked your relationship with each of them to have been.

Because everyone tends to forget some parts of their childhood, especially unpleasant experiences, we know that it may be difficult to remember past events accurately. In order to help yourself remember your past as accurately as possible, please take a few minutes now to think back over your childhood and adolescence. Let your mind focus on particular events and try to create a mental picture of the places you lived, your mother and father, your brothers and sisters and the ways you spent your time. Try to recall some things that interested you, some things you liked and disliked, and some of the feelings you had about yourself and the people around you. In short, try to briefly reconstruct your childhood and adolescence.

Now, read each statement and decide whether it applied to your relationships with your mother or your father. Keep in mind that we are interested in your impressions based on as much as you can remember about your relationships with your mother and your father. (If you did not have a father or a mother, answer regarding the person who acted most like a father or mother and indicate his or her relationship to you.)

Use the following 6-point scale in responding to each statement:

- 1 = strongly disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 3 = disagree somewhat
- 4 = agree somewhat
- 5 = agree
- 6 = strongly agree

FAMILY RELATIONS INVENTORY (continued)

Choose the option that best represents your experience and write the number associated with it in the space provided immediately preceding each statement.

1. I am answering regarding: (circle)
1 = Mother 2 = Stepmother 3 = Someone else (specify)
2. I am answering regarding: (circle)
1 = Father 2 = Stepfather 3 = Someone else (specify)
- ___ 3. If I got into a quarrel, my father would try to show me who was right and why.
- ___ 4. My father seldom asked my opinion on anything.
- ___ 5. My father thinks I should have as much opportunity as possible within reasonable limits.
- ___ 6. I felt that my father understood me.
- ___ 7. My mother was willing to listen to my side of the story and give it consideration.
- ___ 8. My mother never seemed to notice my "pet" projects.
- ___ 9. I hardly ever felt that my mother criticized me unjustly.
- ___ 10. If I asked my father about sex matters, he would explain them in a manner that I understood.
- ___ 11. My mother didn't seem to care about teaching me how to act in social situations.
- ___ 12. My father had little patience with me when I helped him on an unfamiliar task.
- ___ 13. I could tell my mother about my dates without fearing that she would ask prying questions.
- ___ 14. I seldom talked over personal problems with my mother.
- ___ 15. My mother never seemed to be very concerned about what I did or where I had been.
- ___ 16. It was hard for me to talk about my personal thoughts and problems to my father.

FAMILY RELATIONS INVENTORY (continued)

- 1 = strongly disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 3 = disagree somewhat
- 4 = agree somewhat
- 5 = agree
- 6 = strongly agree

- ___ 17. I spent more time with a nurse or baby sitter during childhood than I did with my mother.
- ___ 18. As a child I was able to have some secrets without any objections from my mother.
- ___ 19. I can remember going hungry because no one prepared my meals.
- ___ 20. At times when I needed him most, my father was usually busy or not around.
- ___ 21. My father didn't care about what kind of grades I got in school.
- ___ 22. I often felt that my father wished he could get rid of me.
- ___ 23. I seldom felt that my father criticized me unjustly.
- ___ 24. My mother showed little concern over my illnesses.
- ___ 25. My mother praised more than she blamed but didn't overdo either one.
- ___ 26. My father seldom gave me gifts - even on special occasions.
- ___ 27. I felt that my mother understood me.
- ___ 28. My father was usually interested in what I was doing.
- ___ 29. I seldom received gifts from my mother - even on special occasions.
- ___ 30. My father spent very little time with me when I was growing up.
- ___ 31. My father used to "snap" at me frequently.
- ___ 32. My father was not concerned about the company I kept.
- ___ 33. I could "talk back" to my father if I didn't overdo it.
- ___ 34. My mother asked for my opinion and considered it seriously.

FAMILY RELATIONS INVENTORY (continued)

- 1 = strongly disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 3 = disagree somewhat
- 4 = agree somewhat
- 5 = agree
- 6 = strongly agree

- ___ 35. My mother asks rather than tells me to do things.
- ___ 36. I could tell my father about things that happened on a date without being afraid of prying questions being asked.
- ___ 37. My father tried to look at my companions through my eyes.
- ___ 38. My mother usually treated others with more consideration and courtesy than she did me.
- ___ 39. I could rely upon my father if it was necessary.
- ___ 40. If I got into serious trouble my father would do what he could to help.
- ___ 41. My mother never bought anything "just for me" (for example, candy) when I went to the store with her.
- ___ 42. My father would often abide by my will even though he did not agree.
- ___ 43. There were many times when I wished that my father better understood how I felt about things.
- ___ 44. I felt like my father was a good friend as well as a parent.
- ___ 45. My mother always had time to listen if I had a problem to discuss.
- ___ 46. I hardly ever took any of my personal problems to my father.
- ___ 47. My mother would take time out to play with me if I wanted her to.
- ___ 48. My father seldom encouraged me in anything.
- ___ 49. My mother trusted me.
- ___ 50. My mother didn't seem interested in explaining things to me.

FAMILY RELATIONS INVENTORY (continued)

- 1 = strongly disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 3 = disagree somewhat
- 4 = agree somewhat
- 5 = agree
- 6 = strongly agree

- ___ 51. When I got into serious trouble I could expect very little help from my father in getting things straightened out.
- ___ 52. If I kissed or hugged my mother, she seemed to be embarrassed.
- ___ 53. My father always seemed to be very busy when I asked him for something.
- ___ 54. My father seldom took the time to explain things to me so that I could understand them.
- ___ 55. My father had the knack of knowing just when to "put his foot down."
- ___ 56. My mother seldom "tucked" me into bed.
- ___ 57. My father never seemed interested in the things I did at school.
- ___ 58. Quite often I would get a quick, emphatic "NO" from my father even though my request was reasonable.
- ___ 59. When my father promised me something, I knew that he would keep the promise.
- ___ 60. My father was a willing listener if I had a problem.
- ___ 61. My mother seldom gave me much "moral support."
- ___ 62. I found it next to impossible to have a heart to heart talk with my mother.
- ___ 63. At times when I needed her most my mother was usually busy or not around.
- ___ 64. I hardly ever sat on my mother's lap when I was young.
- ___ 65. My father asked for my opinion and considered it seriously.
- ___ 66. My mother showed little concern if I "wandered off" for as long as half a day.

FAMILY RELATIONS INVENTORY (continued)

- 1 = strongly disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 3 = disagree somewhat
- 4 = agree somewhat
- 5 = agree
- 6 = strongly agree

- ___ 67. I felt as if my father was concerned about how I was growing up.
- ___ 68. My mother treated me pretty much as her equal.
- ___ 69. My father praised more than he blamed but didn't overdo either one.
- ___ 70. My mother always seemed to be very busy when I asked her for something.
- ___ 71. My mother never seemed interested in the things I made for her in school.
- ___ 72. My mother was often "too busy to listen" to me.
- ___ 73. My mother knew just how far to let things go before "putting her foot down."
- ___ 74. I can remember my mother encouraging me to make "small" decisions when I was quite young.
- ___ 75. I felt that my mother could have kept my clothes nicer.
- ___ 76. My father seldom showed any interest in my "pet" projects.
- ___ 77. I enjoyed doing little jobs for my mother.
- ___ 78. If I got into serious trouble, my mother would do what she could to help me out.
- ___ 79. My mother would lend a helping hand on a project if I desired it.
- ___ 80. When I was a child my father gave me about as much "freedom" as my friends' fathers gave them.
- ___ 81. My mother tried to look at my companions through my eyes.
- ___ 82. My father didn't care when I got home from school or dates.

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