

## Feeding Scale Item Description Clarification Sheet

Some Feeding items may need further clarification. Please highlight the following sentences or clauses or add comments to the item descriptions.

### **Sensitivity to Cues**

1. Add to bottom of item description *both arms must be restricted to rate a "no"*.
6. Highlight *may release* in second sentence. The examples shown on videotape show infants who all release the nipple to look up at their mother. They do not have to release the nipple to score a yes. The video may be misleading to learners.
11. Add the word *affectionate* forms of touch.
12. This is an **OR** statement ...Allows pauses **OR** in the pause phase of suck -pause sequence of sucking.
13. Think of this item as the caregiver *following the lead of the baby*. Highlight first sentence—  
Score yes:
  - if the caregiver *slows the pace of the feeding* (this best observed in solid feedings),
  - comments on cues or on pauses, or
  - momentarily pauses in response to any subtle disengagement cue.
14. This is another **OR** statement, i.e. terminates the feeding when the child shows satiation cues **OR** other methods have proved unsuccessful.
15. If a mother scores a NO on this item, she will often score NO's on 12, 13, and 14 as well because she is not following the lead of the baby.

### **Response to Distress**

Remember (1) scoring is cumulative; (2) the caregiver must attempt to alleviate the child's distress within 5-10 seconds of the potent disengagement cues; (3) the potent disengagement cues that occur during the first minute of the Feeding and those that terminate the feeding are not scored in this subscale; (4) if any of the mother's responses occur only in response to distress they are not scored elsewhere and vice versa.

22. Highlight third sentence. *Attempts to distract child must be unrelated to the feeding and novel as opposed to soothing.*

### **Social Emotional Growth Fostering**

29. Highlight NOTE.
30. Highlight last sentence.
32. Highlight second sentence...includes verbal exchanges between caregiver and child, facial exchanges, or physical interaction (games with food hands, etc. that both caregiver and child partake in. Remember to look for these things during burps also.
36. Highlight—Child does not have to see the caregiver smile or hear the caregiver laugh.
- 38, 48, 60, & 70 **all** have to do with child vocalizations.
  - #60 includes *all* sounds except crying and feeding sounds (rationale here is because the subscale is Clarity of Cues and we want to give credit for attempts to communicate with the caregiver)

- #38, 48, 70 includes all sounds except crying, whining, fussing, feeding sounds, grunting.

41. Scored as "no" only if words are critical, derogatory or negative or said in a critical, derogatory or negative way.

### **Cognitive Growth Fostering**

42. Caregiver must totally HAND OVER the item to the child. Highlight last three sentences.

43. Highlight the second sentence.

44. This must occur at 3 *separate* times during the feeding.

47. The caregiver uses more explanatory forms of statements (e.g. describe, ask questions, explain consequences) MORE than commands in talking to the child. Words that are not commands are considered explanatory. Think of explanatory language as "talking" to child vs telling them what to do.

### **Clarity of Cues**

53. The decrease in tension ***must stabilize*** during the feeding.

54. Alertness = Brightening and widening of eyes at least twice during the feeding.

56. If no activity or not enough activity /inactivity to rate score as "no."

61. Caregiver does not need to see or hear the laugh or smile.

63. Remember there are *two parts* to this item. The caregiver must *offer* the food and the child must vigorously resist in one of the ways listed in the manual.

### **Responsiveness to Caregiver**

67. Postural direction to or attending to caregiver/social activity enough to score a "yes."

71. Caregiver must see child's smile.

73. Pulling the baby closer to the mom is considered repositioning or handling.