

FAMILY EXPRESSIVENESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Reference

Halberstadt, A. G. (1986). Family socialization of emotional expression and nonverbal communication styles and skills. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51(4), 827-836.

Secondary Reference

Halberstadt, A. G., Cassidy, J., Stifter, C. A., Parke, R. D., & Fox, N. A. (1995). Self-expressiveness within the family context: Psychometric support for a new measure. *Psychological Assessment*, 7(1), 93-103.

Description

The *Family Expressiveness Questionnaire (FEQ)* (Halberstadt, 1986) was designed to assess the family's overall emotional expressiveness. The respondent provides a retrospective report of expressiveness and affect in the family of origin. The 40 items represent a range of emotions that are typical of many families and are rated on a 9-point scale ranging from 1 = *not at all frequently in my family* to 9 = *very frequently in my family*. Respondents are instructed to think about how often each emotional scenario occurred in their family compared to other families. Four subscales of 10 items each represent an affect dimension (positive, negative) crossed by a power dimension (dominant, submissive): Positive-Dominant (PD), Positive-Submissive (PS), Negative-Dominant (ND), and Negative-Submissive (NS).

Halberstadt (1986) reported good internal consistency (Cronbach's coefficient alpha) for the four scales: PD = .87, PS = .88, ND = .88, NS = .75. Test-retest reliability coefficients for a 10-day interval were PD = .92, PS = .91, ND = .91, NS = .89.

Modifications: Study participants completed the *Family Expressiveness Questionnaire*, identified as *My Family* in the site-specific questionnaire battery, with respect to themselves and their spouses/partners (if applicable) and children, rather than their family of origin. Halberstadt et al. (1995) noted that other researchers have used the measure with parents to obtain reports of concurrent family expressiveness.

Administration: 54 months, Grade 1

This measure was administered at 54 months to mothers ($n = 88$) during the common protocol lab visit, and at Grade 1 to mothers ($n = 99$) and fathers/partners ($n = 74$) during a site-specific home visit.

Note that the questionnaire used at Grade 1 was typed incorrectly. The initial instructions are for the *FEQ*, but after Item 18, new instructions are inserted to think about one's own expressiveness within the family, rather than the family as a whole. These instructions came from the *Self-Expressiveness in the Family Questionnaire (SEFQ)* (Halberstadt et al., 1995), which parallels the *FEQ* except that it assesses the individual's expressiveness within the family context, rather than whole-family expressiveness. Items 25 & 32 are reworded. The *FEQ* and *SEFQ* are scored differently.

The short form of the *SEFQ* was administered as part of the common protocol to mothers and fathers/partners in Grades 3, 4, & 5, with some item rewording.

Scoring: Halberstadt (1986)

We computed *FEQ* scores for both the 54-month and Grade 1 administrations. In personal communications, Halberstadt recommended that we ignore the problem with the Grade 1 form and score it utilizing the *FEQ* scoring system.

Positive-Dominant

Mean of 10 items: 1, 6, 16, 17, 18, 23, 26, 28, 33, 39

Mother report, 54 months = **M54FEQPD**

$N = 88, M = 7.21, SD = 0.92, \text{range} = 4.60-9, \alpha = .82$

Mother report, Grade 1 = **MG1FEQPD**

$N = 99, M = 7.07, SD = 1.09, \text{range} = 3.90-9, \alpha = .83$

Father/partner report, Grade 1 = **FG1FEQPD**

$N = 74, M = 6.48, SD = 1.22, \text{range} = 4.20-8.60, \alpha = .88$

Positive-Submissive

Mean of 10 items: 2, 3, 13, 21, 22, 30, 31, 35, 38, 40

Mother report, 54 months = **M54FEQPS**

$N = 88, M = 7.30, SD = 0.89, \text{range} = 4.00-8.80, \alpha = .84$

Mother report, Grade 1 = **MG1FEQPS**

$N = 99, M = 7.11, SD = 1.01, \text{range} = 4.60-9, \alpha = .81$

Father/partner report, Grade 1 = **FG1FEQPS**

$N = 74, M = 6.57, SD = 1.18, \text{range} = 4.10-8.80, \alpha = .89$

Negative-Dominant

Mean of 10 items: 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 24, 27, 36, 37

Mother report, 54 months = **M54FEQND**

$N = 88, M = 3.67, SD = 0.92, \text{range} = 1.70-7, \alpha = .74$

Mother report, Grade 1 = **MG1FEQND**

$N = 99, M = 3.29, SD = 1.09, \text{range} = 1.60-7.10, \alpha = .82$

Father/partner report, Grade 1 = **FG1FEQND**

$N = 74, M = 3.29, SD = 1.13, \text{range} = 1.20-6.70, \alpha = .87$

Negative-Submissive

Mean of 10 items: 8, 10, 14, 15, 19, 20, 25, 29, 32, 34

Mother report, 54 months = **M54FEQNS**

$N = 88, M = 4.86, SD = 1.05, \text{range} = 2.60-7.70, \alpha = .71$

Mother report, Grade 1 = **MG1FEQNS**

$N = 99, M = 4.50, SD = 1.26, \text{range} = 1.90-6.80, \alpha = .77$

Father/partner report, Grade 1 = **FG1FEQNS**

$N = 74, M = 3.87, SD = 1.13, \text{range} = 1.40-7.10, \alpha = .79$

Analysis Data Sets

SS54MO

SSG1

Raw Data Sets

54 months, mother report: M54MF

Grade 1, mother report: M1GMF

Grade 1, father/partner report: F1GMF