
Attachment Symptom Checklist for Children Under 5

CHILD'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

Symptoms	None	Moderate	Severe
1. Cries; miserable all the time, chronically fussy	_____	_____	_____
2. Resists comforting or nurturance	_____	_____	_____
3. Resists or dislikes being held	_____	_____	_____
4. Poor eye contact or avoids eye contact	_____	_____	_____
5. Flat, lifeless affect (too quiet)	_____	_____	_____
6. Likes playpen or crib more than being held	_____	_____	_____
7. Rarely cries (overly good baby)	_____	_____	_____
8. Angry or rageful when cries	_____	_____	_____
9. Exceedingly demanding	_____	_____	_____
10. Looks sad or empty-eyed	_____	_____	_____
11. Delayed milestones (creeping, crawling, etc.)	_____	_____	_____
12. Stiffens or becomes rigid when held	_____	_____	_____
13. Likes to be in control	_____	_____	_____
14. Does not hold on when held (no reciprocal holding)	_____	_____	_____
15. When held chest to chest, faces away	_____	_____	_____
16. Doesn't like head touched (combed, washed)	_____	_____	_____
17. Generally unresponsive to parent	_____	_____	_____
18. Cries or rages when held beyond his wishes	_____	_____	_____
19. Overly independent play or makes no demands	_____	_____	_____
20. Reaches for others to hold him rather than parent	_____	_____	_____
21. Little or reduced verbal responsiveness	_____	_____	_____
22. Does not return smiles	_____	_____	_____
23. Shows very little imitative behavior	_____	_____	_____

- 24. Prefers Dad to Mom _____
- 25. Gets in and out of parents lap frequently _____
- 26. Physically restless when sleeping _____
- 27. Does not react to pain (high pain tolerance) _____
- 28. Overly affectionate to strangers _____
- 29. Feeding problems _____
- 30. Speech development delayed _____

Completed by: _____

Relationship to _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____

Date completed: _____

Phone: (evening) _____

Note: This checklist is a screening device, and is only one component of a professional diagnostic assessment. It should not be used as a stand-alone measurement.

This list was adapted from Walter Buenning, Ph.D.; "Toddler adoption: The Weaver's Craft" by Mary Hopkins-Best; and "What You Should Know Before You Adopt a Child" by Institute for Attachment and Child Development. It is utilized by the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio as part of the pre-service application process.