

Child Rearing Practices Q-Sort (Revised).
Items 1 to 91 from Block (1965);
items 92 to 99 from Roberts (1999).

Items to be sorted into 9 categories (11 cards per category), from most undescriptive to most descriptive. Detailed instructions are given below.

1. I respect my child's opinions and encourage him/her to express them.
2. I encourage my child always to do his/her best.
3. I put the wishes of my mate before the wishes of my child.
4. I help my child when s/he is being teased by his/her friends.
5. I often feel angry with my child.
6. If my child gets into trouble, I expect him/her to handle the problem mostly by himself/herself.
7. I punish my child by putting him/her off somewhere by himself/herself for a while.
8. I watch closely what my child eats and when s/he eats.
9. I don't think young children of different sexes should be allowed to see each other naked.
10. I wish my spouse were more interested in our children.
11. I feel a child should be given comfort and understanding when s/he is scared or upset.
12. I try to keep my child away from children or families who have different ideas or values from our own.
13. I try to stop my child from playing rough games or doing things where s/he might get hurt.
14. I believe physical punishment to be the best way of disciplining.
15. I believe that a child should be seen and not heard.
16. I sometimes forget the promises I have made to my child.
17. I think it is good practice for a child to perform in front of others.
18. I express affection by hugging, kissing, and holding my child.
19. I find some of my greatest satisfactions in my child.
20. I prefer that my child not try things if there is a chance s/he will fail.
21. I encourage my child to wonder and think about life.
22. I usually take into account my child's preferences in making plans for the family.
23. I wish my child did not have to grow up so fast.

24. I feel a child should have time to think, daydream, and even loaf sometimes.
25. I find it difficult to punish my child.
26. I let my child make many decisions for him/herself.
27. I do not allow my child to say bad things about his/her teachers.
28. I worry about the bad and sad things that can happen to a child as s/he grows up.
29. I teach my child that in one way or another punishment will find him/her when s/he is bad.
30. I do not blame my child for whatever happens if others ask for trouble.
31. I do not allow my child to get angry with me.
32. I feel my child is a bit of a disappointment to me.
33. I expect a great deal of my child.
34. I am easy going and relaxed with my child.
35. I give up some of my own interests because of my child.
36. I tend to spoil my child.
37. I have never caught my child lying.
38. I talk it over and reason with my child when s/he misbehaves.
39. I trust my child to behave as s/he should, even when I am not with him/her.
40. I joke and play with my child.
41. I give my child a good many duties and family responsibilities.
42. My child and I have warm, intimate times together.
43. I have strict, well-established rules for my child.
44. I think one has to let a child take many chances as s/he grows up and tries new things.
45. I encourage my child to be curious, to explore and question things.
46. I sometimes talk about God and religious ideas in explaining things to my child.
47. I expect my child to be grateful and appreciate all the advantages s/he has.
48. I sometimes feel that I am too involved with my child.
49. I believe in toilet training a child as soon as possible.
50. I threaten punishment more often than I actually give it.

51. I believe in praising a child when s/he is good and think it gets better results than punishing him/her when s/he is bad.
52. I make sure my child knows that I appreciate what s/he tries or accomplishes.
53. I encourage my child to talk about his/her troubles.
54. I believe children should not have secrets from their parents.
55. I teach my child to keep control of his/her feelings at all times.
56. I try to keep my child from fighting.
57. I dread answering my child's questions about sex.
58. When I am angry with my child, I let him/her know it.
59. I think a child should be encouraged to do things better than others.
60. I punish my child by taking away a privilege s/he otherwise would have had.
61. I give my child extra privileges when s/he behaves well.
62. I enjoy having the house full of children.
63. I believe that too much affection and tenderness can harm or weaken a child.
64. I believe that scolding and criticism makes my child improve.
65. I believe my child should be aware of how much I sacrifice for him/her.
66. I sometimes tease and make fun of my child.
67. I teach my child that s/he is responsible for what happens to him/her.
68. I worry about the health of my child.
69. There is a good deal of conflict between my child and me.
70. I do not allow my child to question my decisions.
71. I feel that it is good for a child to play competitive games.
72. I like to have some time for myself, away from my child.
73. I let my child know how ashamed and disappointed I am when s/he misbehaves.
74. I want my child to make a good impression on others.
75. I encourage my child to be independent of me.
76. I make sure I know where my child is and what s/he is doing.
77. I find it interesting and educational to be with my child for long periods.
78. I think a child should be weaned from the breast or bottle as soon as possible.

79. I instruct my child not to get dirty while s/he is playing.
80. I don't go out if I have to leave my child with a stranger.
81. I think jealousy and quarrelling between brothers and sisters should be punished.
82. I think children must learn early not to cry.
83. I control my child by warning him/her about the bad things that can happen to him/her.
84. I think it is best if the mother, rather than the father, is the one with the most authority over the children.
85. I don't want my child to be looked upon as different from others.
86. I don't think children should be given sexual information before they can understand everything.
87. I believe it is very important for a child to play outside and get plenty of fresh air.
88. I get pleasure from seeing my child eating well and enjoying his/her food.
89. I don't allow my child to tease or play tricks on others.
90. I think it is wrong to insist that young boys and girls have different kinds of toys and play different sorts of games.
91. I believe it is unwise to let children play a lot by themselves without supervision from grown-ups.
92. If my child is upset over nothing, I encourage him/her not to cry.
93. I believe that children cope better when they learn not to be so upset.
94. When my child is upset, I try to find out the problem and resolve it.
95. Sometimes when my child is upset or angry, I find that the best thing to do is to leave the room and ignore him/her.
96. If my child is frustrated and upset because a task is too complicated or difficult, I do it for him/her.
97. If some other child frightens or hurts my child, I try to comfort him/her.
98. If I have a dispute with my child and s/he starts to cry, I still stand firm.
99. It is sometimes necessary to frighten a child in order to have him/her obey.

Instructions for the
Child Rearing Q-Sort Cards
(adapted from Block, 1965)

In trying to gain more understanding of young children, we would like to know what is important to you as a parent and what kinds of methods you have used in raising your child-- in particular, your child who is now in preschool or day care. You are asked to indicate your opinions by sorting through a special set of cards that contain statements about bringing up children.

The WHITE cards are to be used by MOTHERS; the BLUE cards are to be used by FATHERS.

Please do the task separately and do not discuss the card placements with your spouse. After you have each completed the task on your own, then you may find it interesting to discuss the sorts, but please don't change your sorts after this discussion. It is very important that we find out the real differences, as well as the similarities, between mothers and fathers in their child rearing attitudes and behavior.

The Cards and Envelopes

Each set or deck contains 99 cards. Each card contains a sentence having to do with child rearing. Some of these sentences will be true or descriptive of your attitudes and behavior in relation to your child. Some sentences will be untrue or undescriptive of your feelings and behavior toward your child. By sorting these cards according to the instructions below, you will be able to show how descriptive or undescriptive each of these sentences is for you.

Together with the cards you have received 9 envelopes, with the following labels:

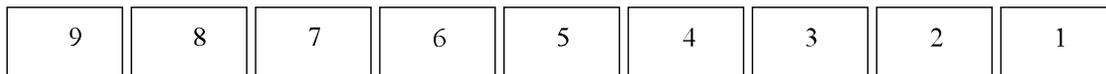
9. These cards are most descriptive.
8. These cards are quite descriptive.
7. These cards are fairly descriptive.
6. These cards are somewhat descriptive.
5. These cards are neutral, neither descriptive nor undescriptive.
4. These cards are somewhat undescriptive.
3. These cards are fairly undescriptive.
2. These cards are quite undescriptive.
1. These cards are most undescriptive.

Your task is to choose 11 cards that fit into each of these categories and to put them into their proper envelopes.

How to Sort the Cards

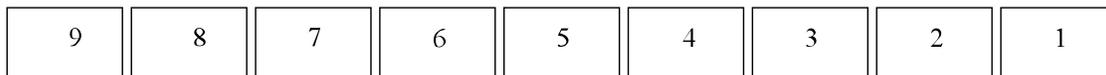
(You may wish to check off each step as completed.)

- ___ 1. Mothers take the WHITE cards and shuffle them a bit first. Fathers take the BLUE cards and shuffle them a bit first.
- ___ 2. Find a large cleared surface, like a kitchen table or desk, and spread out the envelopes in a row, going from 9 to 1 (Most Descriptive to Most Undescriptive):



- ___ 3. Now take the shuffled deck of cards, and read each sentence carefully. Then make three piles of cards: one pile containing cards that are generally true or descriptive of you; one pile that you're not certain about; and one pile of cards that are generally not true or descriptive.

It doesn't make any difference how many cards you put in each of the three piles at this time, since you'll probably have to do some switching around later. But you may find it helpful if each pile contains about the same number of cards. Now your cards and envelopes look like this:



"Descriptive"
Cards

"Not Sure"
Cards

"Undescriptive"
Cards

- ___ 4. Now, take the pile of descriptive cards and pick out the 11 cards that are most descriptive of your behavior with your child. Put these cards on top of envelope #9. Don't put them inside yet, because you might want to shift some of them later.
- ___ 5. Next, from the cards that remain, pick out 11 cards that you think are quite descriptive of your behavior and put these on top of envelope # 8.
- ___ 6. From the remaining descriptive cards, pick out 11 cards that you think are somewhat descriptive of your behavior and put these on top of envelope #7. (If you run out of cards from your "descriptive" pile, you'll have to add some of the more descriptive cards from your "Not Sure" pile.)
- ___ 7. Now, begin at the other end. Take the pile of "undescriptive" cards and pick out the 11 cards that are most undescriptive of you. Put these on envelope #1.
- ___ 8. Then pick out the 11 cards which are quite undescriptive and put them on top of envelope #2.
- ___ 9. From the remaining undescriptive cards, pick out 11 cards that you think are somewhat undescriptive of your behavior and put these on top of envelope # 3.

(Again, you may have to "borrow" from your "Not Sure" pile to make the necessary 11 cards for envelope #3.)

- ___10. You should now have 33 cards left over. These are now to be sorted into three new piles with 11 cards in each: 11 cards that are somewhat descriptive of you (to be put on envelope #6.); 11 cards that are neither descriptive nor undescriptive (to be put on envelope #5); and 11 cards that are somewhat undescriptive (to be put on envelope #4).

You may find it hard, as others have, to put the same number of cards in each pile but we must ask you to follow these directions exactly, even if you feel limited by them.

- ___11. Now, as a last step, look over your sort to see if there are any changes you want to make. When the cards seem to belong where you have put them, double-check to be sure that you have 11 cards in each pile. Then put each pile in the proper envelope and tuck in the flaps. (Please don't glue them-- we may want to use them again later.)

Thank you for your cooperation!

References

Block, Jean. (1965). *The Child-rearing Practices Report (Crpr): a Set of Q Items for the Description of Parental Socialization Attitudes and Values*. Unpublished manuscript, Institute of Human Development, University of California, Berkeley.

Roberts, W. (1999). The Socialization of Emotion Expression: Relations with Prosocial Behavior and Competence in Five Samples. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, **31**, 72-85.