



PARENT'S TOOLSHOP CONSULTING, LTD.

Jody Johnston Pawel, LSW, CFLE, Family Life Education Consultant • P.O. Box 343 • Springboro, OH • 45066
Dayton: (937) 748-4541 • Toll-free: 1-877-748-4541 • Fax (937) 748-4620 • E-mail: info@Parentstoolshop.com • URL: www.Parentstoolshop.com

Dear Parent Education Professional:

Most funding resources require you to have an outcome-focused program evaluation process, so you can document the results of your program. In 1992, before outcome-focused evaluations were a national United Way mandate, a **United Way Ph.D. evaluation specialist** helped Jody Pawel **develop an outcome-focused assessment tool** for her comprehensive parent training curriculum and book, *The Parent's Toolshop: The Universal Blueprint for Building a Healthy Family*. The tool was so effective in documenting the program's effectiveness, it **served as a United Way interagency model** for outcome-focused program planning when the United Way mandate was adopted several years later.

If you are teaching parent education programs based on *The Parent's Toolshop* or a similar prevention, skill-training program and need to compile and/or report **proof that your program improves participants' skills**, this assessment packet is a valuable resource that will **prevent you from having to start from scratch**. It contains everything you need to set your outcome goals and objectives, assess participants' skills, calculate individual skill assessment scores and class averages, and report these to the agencies who fund your program (or who you hope to fund your program ☺).

- **If you teach programs based on *The Parent's Toolshop*, you can use this packet as-is.** It is designed specifically for people who use *The Parent's Toolshop* to design and provide family life education programs.
- **If you teach another prevention, skill-training program, you can adapt the Parent's Toolshop model to fit the needs of your participants, programs, agency, and funding sources.** It includes directions for following the basic structure and modifying the skills you are assessing, determining how you will assess whether participants learn these skills, and what data you need to report.

This packet contains a diskette with all the computer files of the forms. If your computer can read WordPerfect files, the scoring and reporting tables will automatically calculate your data. If you use Microsoft Word, you may need to adjust some formatting, insert your own formulas, or manually calculate your data. Also, the ASCII files do not support tables. You will need to create your own tables and insert the headings and data yourself.

Dozens of Parent's Toolshop "Tour Guides" (certified parent educators) have field-tested this skill assessment tool over ten years to make it as consistently reliable and easy to use as possible. The following three pages give you a sneak-peak at the free 15-page bonus report that's included in the packet. The last page of this document shows you the first page (of six pages) of the skill assessment tool, as a sample for you to review.

CLICK THIS LINK: <http://www.parentstoolshop.com/HTML/parentedCATALOG.HTML> to purchase the **Skill Assessment Packet**. While you are at that page, **check out the other resources we offer specifically for parent educators**. If you want more details or have questions about whether **this resource will meet your needs**, feel free to contact the author, using the contact information above.

Yours in service to families,

Parents Toolshop® Consulting, Ltd.

BONUS REPORT:

Tips for

Custom-Designing Your Outcome Measurements

using the *Outcome-Focused Parenting Skill Assessments* packet
(© 1998), based on *The Parents Toolshop*® programs

PLUS: a handout from the workshop,

PROVING PREVENTION WORKS:

***Using Outcome-Based Assessments
in Parenting-Skill Training Programs***

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I take little credit for actually developing this outcome assessment tool. I developed the Parents Toolshop® curriculum and knew the content inside-out, **but evaluation experts are responsible for the tool's development and refinement.** Without this evaluation tool, Parents Toolshop® would be a great program, with no way to prove it. Now, with **over 10 years of outcome results from multiple instructors**, we have benchmark results others can use to start or evaluate similar programs. So I must give a special thanks to:

United Way of Greater Dayton for the Venture Grant they gave to **Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley (CSSMV)** in 1992 to start the Families Count Project. A huge thanks to **Janie Taynor, PhD**, their outcome evaluation specialist, who sat with me, listened to my outcome goals and a description of the skills parents needed to learn and then custom-designed an outcome-focused evaluation tool for my program. Her consultation was invaluable, as we tested and tweaked it into a consistently reliable tool other parent educators could use to teach their Toolshop® programs.

Although I wrote *The Parents Toolshop®* curricula on my own time, I want to thank Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley for the ten years they encouraged and facilitated its development, testing and refining through the Families Count Project. Thank you for expanding the program to hire additional instructors so we could test the reliability of this tool and develop standardized measurements to guarantee the validity of the results.

Thanks to the **Families Count Project parent educators and Parents Toolshop® “Tour Guide” instructors** for testing this tool in the early years, to guarantee its validity and reliability when used by multiple reviewers. A special thanks to Deb Ruscitelli's red pen and Denise Uhl Jenkins' pencil penmanship and their respective attention to detail.

Special thanks to **Heidi Stolz, PhD, professor of Psychology**, for critiquing the tool's use and effectiveness when used on a broader scale and with low-literacy parents. Your knowledge of research validity and testing accuracy revealed several key factors we now train others to consider when assessing this population.

Finally, thanks to **United Way of America (UWA)** for giving me permission to share parts of their manual. And a huge thanks to Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley and United Way of Greater Dayton for giving me permission to share the tool they designed for Parents Toolshop® programs *and* endorsing the Parents Toolshop® Outcome-Focused Assessment Packet as a reliable, valid measurement tool others can use.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tips for Custom-Designing Your Outcome Measurements, using the Outcome-Focused Parenting Skill Assessments packet (© 1998), based on The Parents Toolshop® programs 4

A handout from the workshop, ***PROVING PREVENTION WORKS: Using Outcome-Based Assessments in Parenting-Skill Training Programs***

Glossary of Selected Outcome Measurement Terms (from UWA) 6

Hints as to What Are and Are Not Outcomes (from UWA) 7

Levels of Outcomes (from UWA) 8

Questions Regarding Proposed Program Logic Model and Outcomes (from UWA) .. 9

Issues in Defining Outcomes 10

Special Problems with Hard-to-measure Outcomes 11

Select the Outcomes That Are Important to Measure 12

Specify One or More Indicators for Each Outcome 12

Decide What Factors Could Influence Participant Outcomes 14

Sources of Data for Indicators 14

Methods of Data Collection 15

How to Use Your Data Findings 15

UWA = United Way of America

Parenting Skill Assessment Guidelines

CLIENT NAME _____
 CLASS _____
 DATE OF RATING _____

PRE _____
 3 OR LESS CONTACTS _____
 POST _____

The parent's questionnaire has seven (7) questions that provide information on the skills you are assessing. As you read the parent's answers to each question, rate the following skills accordingly:

1. Problem ownership, listening, problem solving.
2. Encouragement, independence (teaching skills)
3. Unintentional misbehavior, independence (balancing freedom and responsibility)
4. Cooperation, intentional misbehavior (goal of power)
5. Clear Communication (and cooperation)
6. Discipline (punishment vs. discipline *and* use of techniques)
7. Anger/Stress Management skills (parent *and* child)

On the parent's pre-class assessment: rate *only* what the parent answered.

On the parent's post-class assessment: you may consider observations you made during class. If your rating includes such subjective influence, please put an asterisk (*) next to the parent's client number on the scoring grid.

1. Problem Ownership, Listening, Problem Solving

1a. Problem Ownership. Parents need to identify whether a problem is a Child Problem or Parent Problem. If it is a Child Problem, they need to "keep the ball in the child's court" and guide the child through the problem-solving process — without taking over and offering solutions. Does the parent recognize when a problem is a Child Problem? Does the parent take over Child Problems by offering solutions? If so, is the parent's advice helpful?

3 or below: a parent takes over Child Problems *and* the solutions are punishing, negative, critical, or ineffective.

4: a parent takes over Child Problems and offers solutions for how the *parent* can fix the problem.

5: a parent offers solutions to Child Problems, but the parent's advice is *somewhat* helpful.

6: a parent tries to be helpful by offering a solution, but the solution empowers the child.

7: a parent keeps the ball in the child's court by asking questions such as "what can *you* do . . ."

8: a parent acknowledges feelings *and* keeps the ball in the child's court by asking questions such as "what can *you* do . . ."

9+: a parent *identifies the type of problem*, keeps the ball in the child's court, acknowledges feelings, and explores alternatives.

Higher scores indicate a parent's philosophical beliefs and use of *The Parent's Toolshop's* Universal Blueprint.

