



Parent Child Interaction (PCI) Feeding and Teaching Scales

PCI Feeding and Teaching Scales are an assessment tool to be used with parents/caregivers and children age birth-three.

- Developed by Parent-Child Relationship Programs (NCAST) at the University of Washington (www.pcrprograms.org), the PCI Feeding & Teaching Scales provide valid and reliable assessment of a parent-child dyad using an observable set of behaviors during either a feeding or teaching interaction
- The PCI Scales are backed by an extensive body of research and are utilized across disciplines working with infants, toddlers, and their families
- PCI Feeding Scales are used with parents/caregivers and infants age newborn-12 months
- PCI Teaching Scales are used with parents/caregivers and infants/toddlers age newborn-36 months

In child welfare, the PCI Feeding and Teaching Scales are effectively used as a pre and post measure for an intervention. PCI assessments pair well with the DCYF array of evidence-based parenting interventions.

- PCI Feeding & Teaching Scale assessments are used as a tool to gather pertinent information about the parent-child dyad; assessment of parent-child interactions; and appropriate interventions for parents and children
- The assessment provides a snapshot view of parent/caregiver skills and behavior which foster early childhood development, as well as infant/toddler communication with their caregiver

Parent/Caregiver Assessment Domains

Sensitivity to cues
Response to distress
Social-emotional growth fostering
Cognitive growth fostering

Infant/Toddler Assessment Domains

Clarity of cues
Responsiveness to the caregiver

- If one or both of the parent-child dyad score at least one standard deviation below the mean in any of the six domains, this indicates a need for services

PCI assessor certification and re-certification is provided by DCYF and includes the following instruction:

- *Keys to Caregiving*
- Infant cues
- Observation and practice scoring feeding/teaching interaction videos
- At the end of the course all participants attempt reliability to gain certification, re-certification is required 12-24 months from initial certification to maintain fidelity
- Certified PCI assessors should complete a minimum of three assessments per year
- Coaching is available by request for newly certified assessors – send requests to Alissa Copeland at alissa.copeland@dcyf.wa.gov