

Family Expressiveness Questionnaire

Grade 1 /Year 2

Fast Track Project Technical Report

Anne Corrigan

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Citation

Instrument

Halberstadt, A. G. (1986). Family socialization of emotional expression and nonverbal communication styles and skills. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51, 827-836.¹

Reports

Corrigan, A. (2002). *Family Expressiveness Questionnaire, Grade 1/Year 2* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Greenberg, M., Mason, C., Lengua, L., & Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1995). *Family Expressiveness Questionnaire, Kindergarten/Year 1* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Seattle, WA: University of Washington.

Data Sources

Unscored: P2G

Scored: FEQ2

I. Scale Description

The Family Expressiveness Questionnaire is a 13-item revision of the original 40-item questionnaire developed by Halberstadt (1986). Halberstadt's questionnaire contains four subscales: positive-dominant (PD), positive-nondominant (PS), nonpositive-dominant (ND), and nonpositive-nondominant (NS). Greenberg et al. (1995) revised the scale to include ten of Halberstadt's original items and three new items. Analysis of responses on the 13-item questionnaire supported two subscales – *Positive Expression* and *Negative Expression* (Lengua 1995).

Each questionnaire item asks how often a particular scenario of emotional expression occurs in the respondent's family. Six of the items describe negative scenarios, e.g., "How often does someone in your family try to cheer up another family member who is sad?" and seven items express positive scenarios, e.g., "How often does someone in your family praise someone in the family for good work?" Responses are coded on a four-point scale and include: "Never happens (0)," "Sometimes happens (1)," "Happens a lot (2)," and "Happens all the time (3)."

¹ Original Family Expressiveness Questionnaire.

II. Report Sample

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 2. The data include a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total n = 463, including overlap.

Thirty-two of 463 are missing responses for the entire scale, including 24 normative students (3 from Durham, 12 from Washington, 3 from Pennsylvania, and 6 from Nashville), and eight control students (4 from Durham and 4 from Washington), with overlap between the normative and control groups. These scales are not included in the analyses. Two additional students (both from Nashville) are missing responses for individual scale items. Missing responses are not included in analyses.

III. Scaling

The Family Expressiveness Questionnaire contains two subscales: *Positive Expression* (items 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, and 12) and *Negative Expression* (items 2, 5, 6, 8, 13, and 11). Each subscale score is calculated as the mean of responses on subscale items.

The alpha coefficients for the normative sample and control sample are:

	Normative Sample	Control Sample
Positive Expression Subscale	0.823	0.767
Negative Expression Subscale	0.819	0.801

IV. Differences Between Groups

Results of t-tests of means for the normative sample and the high-risk control sample yielded the following results, with a significant value of t for the Positive Expression subscale:

	Normative Sample		Control Sample		DF	t Value	Pr > t
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Positive Expression Subscale	2.26	0.49	2.14	0.47	428	-2.53	0.0119
Negative Expression Subscale	1.93	0.54	1.90	0.53	428	-0.62	0.5341

V. Recommendations for Use

T-test results do not show a significant difference in the response means of the normative and high-risk groups on the Negative Expression subscale. Consequently, researchers should be aware that the Negative Expression subscale may not differentiate between samples identified using a similar diagnostic construct. In addition, positive correlation between the Negative Expression and Positive Expression subscales (0.599, $p < .0001$) suggests that the Family Expressiveness Questionnaire more likely assesses expressivity, and not positive and negative feelings.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs

**Item Means and Standard Deviations - Family Expressiveness Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 2, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P2GFE1	tell someone they look nice	2.05	363	0.72	0	3.00
P2GFE2	tell someone something is bothering them	1.89	363	0.74	0	3.00
P2GFE3	someone says "I am sorry"	2.05	363	0.75	0	3.00
P2GFE4	Someone shows love	2.56	362	0.59	1.00	3.00
P2GFE5	mentions another's behavior bothers them	1.97	363	0.77	0	3.00
P2GFE6	talk to someone when their feelings hurt	1.98	363	0.77	0	3.00
P2GFE7	cheer up another family member	2.18	363	0.70	0	3.00
P2GFE8	explains point of view	2.02	363	0.78	0	3.00
P2GFE9	hug or snuggle	2.37	363	0.73	0	3.00
P2GFE10	praise another family member	2.34	363	0.68	0	3.00
P2GFE11	disappointed/empathy for another member	1.79	363	0.74	0	3.00
P2GFE12	happy	2.14	362	0.72	0	3.00
P2GFE13	discusses reasons for anger	1.91	363	0.76	0	3.00

**Item Means and Standard Deviations - Family Expressiveness Questionnaire
Control Sample, Year 2, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P2GFE1	tell someone they look nice	1.93	147	0.76	0	3.00
P2GFE2	tell someone something is bothering them	1.78	147	0.74	0	3.00
P2GFE3	someone says "I am sorry"	1.97	147	0.71	0	3.00
P2GFE4	Someone shows love	2.45	147	0.62	1.00	3.00
P2GFE5	mentions another's behavior bothers them	2.02	147	0.73	0	3.00
P2GFE6	talk to someone when their feelings hurt	1.98	147	0.75	0	3.00
P2GFE7	cheer up another family member	2.14	147	0.76	0	3.00
P2GFE8	explains point of view	1.99	147	0.79	0	3.00
P2GFE9	hug or snuggle	2.22	147	0.84	0	3.00
P2GFE10	praise another family member	2.24	147	0.66	1.00	3.00
P2GFE11	disappointed/empathy for another member	1.70	147	0.74	0	3.00
P2GFE12	happy	2.03	147	0.73	0	3.00
P2GFE13	discusses reasons for anger	1.90	147	0.78	0	3.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations - Family Expressiveness Questionnaire
Normative Sample, Year 2, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
p2gfepos	Positive Expression Score	2.24	363	0.49	0.86	3.00
p2gfeneg	Negative Expression Score	1.92	363	0.55	0.50	3.00

**Subscale Means and Standard Deviations - Family Expressiveness Questionnaire
Control Sample, Year 2, Cohort 1**

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
p2gfepos	Positive Expression Score	2.14	147	0.47	1.00	3.00
p2gfeneg	Negative Expression Score	1.90	147	0.53	0.50	3.00

VII. Item and Scale Correlations

**Positive and Negative Expression Subscales
Combined Normative and Control Samples**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 432 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0		
	P2gfeneg	p2gfepos
p2gfeneg Negative Score	1.00000	0.59934 <.0001
p2gfepos Positive Score	0.59934 <.0001	1.00000

**Item Correlations
Combined Normative and Control Samples**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 430 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0													
	P2GFE1	P2GFE2	P2GFE3	P2GFE4	P2GFE5	P2GFE6	P2GFE7	P2GFE8	P2GFE9	P2GFE 10	P2GFE 11	P2GFE 12	P2GFE 13
P2GFE1 tell someone they look nice	1.00000	0.28475 <.0001	0.37249 <.0001	0.26775 <.0001	0.21847 <.0001	0.24238 <.0001	0.28560 <.0001	0.24359 <.0001	0.26758 <.0001	0.40058 <.0001	0.23287 <.0001	0.31060 <.0001	0.26638 <.0001
P2GFE2 tell someone something is bothering them	0.28475 <.0001	1.00000	0.31880 <.0001	0.20544 <.0001	0.45002 <.0001	0.33727 <.0001	0.32912 <.0001	0.42269 <.0001	0.24921 <.0001	0.28347 <.0001	0.29769 <.0001	0.28940 <.0001	0.40895 <.0001
P2GFE3 someone says "I am sorry"	0.37249 <.0001	0.31880 <.0001	1.00000	0.41700 <.0001	0.27356 <.0001	0.33308 <.0001	0.41840 <.0001	0.31659 <.0001	0.36801 <.0001	0.41626 <.0001	0.30115 <.0001	0.42569 <.0001	0.30233 <.0001
P2GFE4 someone shows love	0.26775 <.0001	0.20544 <.0001	0.41700 <.0001	1.00000	0.24899 <.0001	0.32823 <.0001	0.30865 <.0001	0.26292 <.0001	0.47340 <.0001	0.41226 <.0001	0.19927 <.0001	0.42270 <.0001	0.23704 <.0001
P2GFE5 mentions another's behavior bothers them	0.21847 <.0001	0.45002 <.0001	0.27356 <.0001	0.24899 <.0001	1.00000	0.52906 <.0001	0.29137 <.0001	0.39820 <.0001	0.23294 <.0001	0.25012 <.0001	0.38901 <.0001	0.32790 <.0001	0.41896 <.0001
P2GFE6 talk to someone when their feelings hurt	0.24238 <.0001	0.33727 <.0001	0.33308 <.0001	0.32823 <.0001	0.52906 <.0001	1.00000	0.51914 <.0001	0.44306 <.0001	0.29026 <.0001	0.32756 <.0001	0.45394 <.0001	0.40609 <.0001	0.49663 <.0001
P2GFE7 cheer up another family member	0.28560 <.0001	0.32912 <.0001	0.41840 <.0001	0.30865 <.0001	0.29137 <.0001	0.51914 <.0001	1.00000	0.37673 <.0001	0.27557 <.0001	0.38587 <.0001	0.34627 <.0001	0.44321 <.0001	0.38021 <.0001
P2GFE8 explains explains point of view	0.24359 <.0001	0.42269 <.0001	0.31659 <.0001	0.26292 <.0001	0.39820 <.0001	0.44306 <.0001	0.37673 <.0001	1.00000	0.26847 <.0001	0.29138 <.0001	0.37105 <.0001	0.31235 <.0001	0.51101 <.0001
P2GFE9 hug or snuggle	0.26758 <.0001	0.24921 <.0001	0.36801 <.0001	0.47340 <.0001	0.23294 <.0001	0.29026 <.0001	0.27557 <.0001	0.26847 <.0001	1.00000	0.50539 <.0001	0.11998 0.0128	0.40883 <.0001	0.28536 <.0001
P2GFE10 praise another family member	0.40058 <.0001	0.28347 <.0001	0.41626 <.0001	0.41226 <.0001	0.25012 <.0001	0.32756 <.0001	0.38587 <.0001	0.29138 <.0001	0.50539 <.0001	1.00000	0.28969 <.0001	0.45578 <.0001	0.31605 <.0001
P2GFE11 disappointed/empathy for another member	0.23287 <.0001	0.29769 <.0001	0.30115 <.0001	0.19927 <.0001	0.38901 <.0001	0.45394 <.0001	0.34627 <.0001	0.37105 <.0001	0.11998 0.0128	0.28969 <.0001	1.00000	0.36494 <.0001	0.38428 <.0001
P2GFE12 happy	0.31060 <.0001	0.28940 <.0001	0.42569 <.0001	0.42270 <.0001	0.32790 <.0001	0.40609 <.0001	0.44321 <.0001	0.31235 <.0001	0.40883 <.0001	0.45578 <.0001	0.36494 <.0001	1.00000	0.40678 <.0001
P2GFE13 discusses reasons for anger	0.26638 <.0001	0.40895 <.0001	0.30233 <.0001	0.23704 <.0001	0.41896 <.0001	0.49663 <.0001	0.38021 <.0001	0.51101 <.0001	0.28536 <.0001	0.31605 <.0001	0.38428 <.0001	0.40678 <.0001	1.00000