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## Family Nurturing Center Assessment Services

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The Family Nurturing Center of Texas offers three services pertaining to assessment and evaluation for agencies providing Nurturing Parenting Program services.

1. A single point of contact for assessing family functioning and parenting risk assessments.
2. Program evaluation/fidelity audits to agencies providing Nurturing Parenting Program services.
3. A two-day Family Functioning and Parenting Risk Assessment training using AAPI, NSCS, and PARTI.

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### 1. Family Functioning and Parenting Risk Assessments

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The Family Nurturing Center of Texas offers a single point of contact for the following family functioning and parenting risk assessments.

- AAPI (Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory)
- NSCS (Nurturing Skills Competency Scale)
- PARTI (Parenting Attitudes about Raising Teens Inventory)

Our process includes the following steps by qualified staff: we accept referrals from individuals, community, family law attorneys, or community agencies; we contact individuals to set up intake appointments and assessments; we provide results to referral source and recommend treatment modalities, curriculum dosage, and frequency of services; we continue to be involved with the service providing agencies to ensure a smooth transition of services, ensure quality of services needed based on assessment results, assist in monitoring progress and determine when it is best to provide post assessments and recommendations.

Our assessment center is available: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI)

The AAPI (version 2.1) is an inventory designed to assess the parenting and child rearing attitudes of adolescents and adult parent and pre-parent populations. Based on the known parenting and child rearing behaviors of abusive parents, responses to the inventory provide an index of risk for practicing behaviors known to be attributable to child abuse and neglect. The AAPI-2.1 is the revised and re-normed version of the original AAPI first developed in 1979.



Responses to the AAPI-2.1 provide an index of risk in five specific parenting and child rearing behaviors:

- **Construct A** – Expectations of Children
- **Construct B** – Parental Empathy towards Children’s Needs
- **Construct C** – Use of Corporal Punishment
- **Construct D** – Parent-Child Family Roles
- **Construct E** – Children’s Power and Independence

The AAPI-2.1, like its predecessor the AAPI is a validated and reliable inventory used to assess parenting attitudes. Over 30 years of research has gone into refining the AAPI. This research indicates the following:

- Abusive parents express significantly ( $p < .001$ ) more abusive attitudes than non-abusive parents.
- Males and male adolescents, regardless of status (abusive or non-abusive) express significantly ( $p < .001$ ) more abusive parenting attitudes than females.
- Adolescents with histories of being abused express significantly ( $p < .001$ ) more abusive parenting attitudes than non-abused adolescents.

Each of the five parenting constructs of the AAPI-2.1, forming the five sub-scales of the inventory, show significant diagnostic and discriminatory validity. That is, responses to the inventory discriminate between the parenting behaviors of known abusive parents and the behaviors of non-abusive parents. These findings hold true for abused adolescents and non-abused adolescents.

The AAPI-2.1 is designed to assess the parenting attitudes of adult parent and pre-parent populations as well as adolescent parent and pre-parent populations. Adolescent’s ages 12 to 19 years old are appropriate to respond to the items on the AAPI-2.1.

[For more information, visit the Assessing Parenting website.](#)

### Nurturing Skills Competency Scale (NSCS)

The Nurturing Skills Competency Scale (NSCS) is a comprehensive criterion referenced measure designed to gather demographic data of the family, as well as knowledge and utilization of Nurturing Parenting practices. The data generated from the administration of the NSCS allows parents and staff an opportunity to measure changes in family life, knowledge and utilization of Nurturing Parenting practices.

The functional purpose of assessment is to gather information for decision makers. Families, professionals in the helping fields, agency administrators, and funding sources are typical decision makers that rely on information to assist them.



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Six Nurturing Skills Competency Scales (NSCS) are available:

1. Prenatal Families
2. Parents & Adolescents
3. Parents & School-Age Children
4. Parents & their Children Birth to Five
5. Teen (Young) Parents & their Children Birth to Five
6. Families in Nurturing Skills Programs

[For more information, visit the Assessing Parenting website.](#)

### Parenting Attitudes about Raising Teens Inventory (PARTI)

PARTI is a norm- reference Likert scale designed to assess the parenting beliefs and practices of raising adolescent's ages 12 to 20 years of age. Data generated from the administration of the PARTI can be useful in several settings:

- Assessing both Parents and their Teens. Parent-teen differences are legendary. Responses to the PARTI are presented on individual and combined profiles allowing teens and their parents to observe the similarities and differences in their beliefs.
- Assessing Parents only. A visual view of the beliefs parents have of raising teens can provide them with an understanding how today's generation of teens are very different from their generation. Responses can also provide parents the opportunity to examine how similar and different they are from their partner in parenting their teen.
- Assessing Teens only. Ideal for use with teens in school settings, detention and residential settings. Responses to the PARTI provide teens an opportunity to examine personal beliefs and behaviors that may have contributed to their social and emotional dysfunctional behavior.
- Expectant Teen Partners: Partners can increase their awareness of their similarities and differences in their beliefs of being a teen. Awareness can prevent conflicts in beliefs from forming unspoken differences that may work to sabotage their young relationship.

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## 2. Evaluation and Fidelity Audits

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The Family Nurturing Center of Texas offers agency evaluation/fidelity audits to agencies providing Nurturing Parenting Program services. Through this process qualified center staff assist agencies in maintaining fidelity at a macro, mezzo and micro level of services.

Evaluation may take 2-4 days to complete and will result in a report that include recommendations.



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### 3. Family Functioning and Risk Assessment Training

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The Family Nurturing Center of Texas offers a two-day training: Family Functioning and Risk Assessment Training using AAPI, NSCS, and PARTI.

In this two-day training, participants learn to assess risks in family functioning using the Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI), Nurturing Skills Competency Scale (NSCS), and Parenting Attitudes about Raising Teens Inventory (PARTI) assessment tools. AAPI is a validated and reliable inventory used to assess parenting attitudes. Over 30 years of research has gone into refining the AAPI, and AAPI-2 has been used for almost a decade to evaluate the Nurturing Parenting Program. Participants learn to administer pre- and post- assessments to yield the best results, to interpret the scores, and to apply this knowledge to provide quality implementation. This training should be taken after the initial three-day Nurturing Parenting Program Facilitation training, preferably within the first two to three months of running your nurturing program.