

THE SENSORY INTEGRATION OBSERVATION GUIDE

Level I: 0 - 12 month old scale

(Adapted by R. Schaaf, J. Burke, & M. Anzalone, March 1995 from Jirgal & Bouma (1980)*)

Name of Child: _____	Date: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Person Interviewed: _____
Chronological Age: _____	Interviewer: _____
Number of Weeks Gestation: _____	
Adjusted Age: _____	

Directions: Ask the parent(s)/caregiver(s) the following questions and wait for a response. If additional information is needed to determine the frequency of a behavior, ask the probes. Significant information may be recorded next to each question to describe the baby's behavior. Rate the frequency of the infant's behavior based on the information present by the parent/caregiver.

- Key:**
- 1 = Never:** The child never demonstrates the behavior.
 - 2 = Almost Never:** The child demonstrates the behavior 1-3 times out of 10.
 - 3 = Sometimes:** The child demonstrates the behavior 4-6 times out of 10.
 - 4 = Almost always:** The child demonstrates the behavior 7-9 times out of 10.
 - 5 = Always:** The child always demonstrates the behavior.

1. **Does the baby like to be held & tend to mold to his/her body into the adult holding him/her?** (Tactile Kinesthetic or TK)

Probes: Does the baby: Demonstrate arching or stiffening of his/her body when held? Pull or push away when held? Cry when held? Snuggle in when held? Prefer some adults over others (e.g., your calm sister vs your physical brother)?

Describe the baby's reaction when held:

2. **Is the baby comfortable being moved?** (Vestibular Proprioceptive or VP)

Probes: Does the baby: Become irritable when passively moved in space? Become irritable when body position is changed? Cry or appear to look fearful when moved in space? Tolerate being turned upside down or moved around in circle? Smile and/or giggle when bounced around?

Describe the baby's reaction to imposed movement:

3. **Does the baby have movement games or favorite songs (e.g. pat a cake or peek a boo) with others and anticipate these special interactions?** (Adapted Motor or AM)

Probes: Does the baby: Avoid interactions with others (e.g. turn away or cry)? Actively participate during interactions with others? Watch when others attempt to interact with him/her?

Describe the baby's reaction to interaction with others:

4. **Does the baby initiate new play situations?** (AM)

Probes: Does the baby: Prefer novel or familiar play situations? Notice new toys? Notice familiar toys? Touch and explore the toys for a period of time? Turn/glance away from toys? Bang toys? Manipulate toys? Use many different strategies to play with toys?

Describe the baby's play:

5. **Does the baby put toys in the mouth to play?** (TK)

Probes: Does the baby: Avoid putting toys in the mouth? Gag when toys are put in the mouth? Over-stuff toys into the mouth? Cry when toys are put in the mouth? Chew on toys when toys are placed in the mouth? Smile/laugh when toys are in the mouth?

Describe the baby's behavior when putting the toy in the mouth:

6. **Does the baby use only his or her fingertips when manipulating toys?** (AM/TK)

Probes: Does the baby: Extend fingers to drop a toy placed in his/her hand? Cry when toys are placed in his/her hand? Close hands to avoid having a toy placed in the hand? Actively hold onto a toy for an extended period of time (e.g. 1-2 minutes) ? Attempt to reach for or grab toys?

Describe what the baby does with toys:

7. **Does the baby use two hands together to play with toys (e.g. switch an object from one hand to the other, and cross the midline)?** (AM)

Probes: Does the baby: Use one hand or the other but avoid play with the hands together? Reach across his/her body to grab a toy? Bang toys together? Only bang on the floor with one hand? Appear to only use one hand when playing? Avoid certain kind of toys that provide a specific type of sensory input (e.g. bunny toy)?

Describe what the baby does with his/her hands when toys are presented:

8. **Does the baby eat food?** If yes, Does the baby accept a variety of textures when they are introduced at an appropriate age? (TK)

Probes: Does the baby: Refuse to eat? Cry when texture foods are introduced? Have food preferences - like/dislikes?

Describe the baby's reaction to textured foods:

9. **Does the baby appear comfortable with more than one stimulus (or information from more than one sensory modality) is presented at one time?** (Regulatory or R)

Probes: Does the baby: Appear to "tune out" if more than one stimulus is presented at a time? Fall asleep if more than one stimulus is presented at a time? Cry if more than one stimulus is presented at a time?

Describe the baby's reaction to stimuli presented (e.g. toys, pictures):

10. **Does the baby appear to enjoy all types of stimulation (e.g. music, visual, or touch)?** (R)

Probes: Does the baby: Avoid certain kinds of toys that provide a specific type of sensory input (e.g. bumpy toy)? Appear to enjoy fuzzy, soft and textured objects? Appear to enjoy bright colored objects? Appear to enjoy objects with contrasting colors? Like "busy" pictures? Like "plain" pictures? Do you as a caregiver have difficulty determining the baby's preference for sensory input?

Describe the baby's sensory stimulation preferences:

11. **Does the baby easily move from one position to another (e.g. belly to back or sit to crawl) in play?** (VP/AM)

Probes: Does the baby: Appear to prefer to stay in one position and avoid moving to different positions (especially prone)? Fall frequently when attempting to change position? Cry or otherwise signal parent/caregiver when he/she wants to change position?

Describe the baby's reaction to movement produced by the baby and describe the baby's movement:

12. **Did the baby sleep through the night after the first six weeks?** (R)

Probes: Does the baby: Constantly cry when put to bed? Sleep for short periods of time (15 minutes or less) then wake again? Sleep for long periods of time? Stay awake for only short periods of time (20 - 30 minutes) each day?

Describe the baby's sleep habits:

13. **Is the baby easy to get to sleep?** (R)

Probes: Does the baby: Fall asleep in many places (e.g. crib, bassinet, car seat, baby carrier)? Can the baby fall asleep without being rocked, cuddled or gently bounced? Need long periods rocking, cuddling, or gentle bouncing (e.g. 30 minutes or more)?

Describe how the baby is put to sleep:

14. **Does the baby easily calm after they are upset and crying?** (R)

Probes: Does the baby: Continue to cry when rocked, hugged, cuddled or bounced gently? Is the baby easily distracted when upset? Continue to cry for extended periods of time (e.g. one hour or more)?

Describe how the baby is calmed:

15. **Does the baby touch and explore different textured toys** (e.g. a smooth rattle or a bumpy squeak toy)? (TK)

Probes: Does the baby: Extend his/her fingers to drop a toy placed in his/her hand? Cry when textured toys are placed in his/her hand or touch his/her face? Close his/her hands to avoid having a toy placed in the hand? Actively hold the toy for extended periods of time (1-2 minutes)? Attempt to reach for and grab textured toys?

Describe the baby's reaction when texture toys/objects are placed in the hand:

16. **Does the baby like (tolerate) laying/sitting/playing on different textured surfaces** (e.g. a blanket, rug, sand, grass, water)? (TK)

Probes: Does the baby: Cry when placed on textured surfaces? Stiffen his/her body or arch his/her back when placed on textured surfaces? Withdraw arms/legs when touched by a texture? Extend arms/legs when touched by a texture?

Describe the baby's reaction when placed on different by a texture:

17. **For babies who are 6 months of age or older: If the baby loses his/her balance do the arms extend in the correct direction to protect the baby from falling over?** (VP)

Probes: Does the baby: Fall frequently?; Extend the arms at all (delayed or no reaction)? Appear to demonstrate fear when falling? Stiffen/arch his/her body? Flex arms/legs when falling?

Describe the baby's reaction to unexpected movement:

18. **Comment on the parent/caregiver behavior and the interaction with the child.** Briefly describe the baby's behavior and the parent's/caregiver's response to the different types of the behaviors demonstrated by the baby.

19. **Do parent/caregiver observations contradict information acquired during the interview?** Explain.

20. **Additional and summary comments:**

TK (Tactile Kinesthetic)

VP (Vestibular-Proprioceptive)

AM (Adaptive Motor)

R (Regulatory)

*Adapted from Jirgal, D., & Bouma, K. (1989). A sensory integration observation guide for children from birth to three years of age. *Sensory Integration Special Interest Section Newsletter*, 12, 2.
