

**When Bad Data Happens to Good Agencies**  
Don't Let This Happen to You!

**I. The 7 Deadly Sins of the Parenting Scale (Common Problems That Cause Invalid Data)**

PROBLEM	EXAMPLES
1) The parent fills in more than one bubble	Response: <b>X---0---0---0---0---X</b>
2) The parent indicates a space <u>between</u> the bubbles	Response: <b>0---0---0---0--X-0---0---0</b>
3) The parent skips multiple items - sometimes entire pages!	
4) The parent completes the measure for more than one target child	Example: <u>Child's Name</u> : John Smith Mary Smith Billy Adams
5) The parent selects a target child under 15 months old	Example: <u>Child's Birthdate</u> : 12/10/10
6) The parent completes the measure for a different child at pretest than at posttest	Example: Child's Name ( <u>Pretest</u> ): John Smith Child's Name ( <u>Posttest</u> ): Mary Smith
7) The parent completes all questions with the same response, usually "straight down the middle". We see this pattern most often with parents who do not understand the measure and what is being asked of them in filling out the survey. If you see this pattern as you monitor the survey administration, be sure to check in with the parent to ensure that s/he understands the items and how to fill out the survey.	Example:  Question 1: <b>0---0---0---X---0---0---0</b> Question 2: <b>0---0---0---X---0---0---0</b> Question 3: <b>0---0---0---X---0---0---0</b> Question 4: <b>0---0---0---X---0---0---0</b> Question 5: <b>0---0---0---X---0---0---0</b>  And so on for all of the items.

**II. Reminders About Completing the Parenting Scale**

**Who Completes the Parenting Scale?**

The Parenting Scale measures parenting practices rather than parenting attitudes, so the person completing the scale **must have contact with the child**. The parent need not have custody of the child but must at least have visitation with the child in order to report on current parenting practices.

The parent must select **one child over the age of 15 months** to complete the Parenting Scale. Do not complete the Parenting Scale for unborn children, multiple children, or children under the age of 15 months.

**When is the Parenting Scale Completed?**

The Parenting Scale needs to be completed twice by every parent who meets the eligibility criteria: before s/he starts the class and after completing the class. The parent should not receive any of the parenting intervention before completing the pretest.

**What do I do with the Parenting Scales?**

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