

Interpreting the Results of *Cooperative Coparenting through Separation or Divorce Survey*

This Survey asks parents to compare their behavior before taking the course with their behavior at the end of the eighth and final session. The first question asks parents to gauge their overall relationship with their coparent using an eight-item scale. The other sixteen questions ask that parents choose a response on a scale of 1 to 10.

To determine whether a parent has improved during the course, add the total scores of all 16 items from the survey completed before Session1 (the pretest) to the total of the same 16 items from the survey completed after session 8 (the posttest). The higher the total score, the better the parent's outcome. For example, a parent who scores a total of 100 points on the pretest and 140 points on the posttest has improved by 40 points during the course. To convert this to a percentage, divide the amount of change (40) by the score from the pretest (100). In this example, 0.4 or 40%.

You may also use the first question on the survey to get a quick view of each parent's overall change during the course. In both cases, keep in mind that parents may also show a negative change after taking the course. This could be due to factors outside of the program that impacted parents during the time period of the course.

You can also calculate the percent of change for the entire group in a similar way. Add the individual totals of all parents who completed the pretest. For example, if you had 12 parents with a combined score of 1200, that would be your **group pretest score**. Then take all the posttest scores for those same parents* and add them to get your **group posttest score**. For example, 2000. Calculate the difference: $2,000 - 1200 = 800$. Divide the difference by the group pretest score: $800/1200 = 0.666$ or 66.6%. The higher the percentage, the more effective the course was. In this example, parents improved almost 70%. Continuing to survey parents in future courses and adding them to your totals will provide even more evidence of effectiveness.

Note: This survey has not been standardized, nor are there any measures of reliability or validity. The examples given also do not use a control group. It simply offers you an easy way to provide one measure of effectiveness of your course. If you need more rigorous documentation of your course's effectiveness, we recommend working with a local evaluation specialist who can help you design an appropriate study for your needs. A local college or university will often have someone who can help you.

*Parents must take both surveys in order to compare the results using this method.