



THE PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW IN PRACTICE

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CONTEXT

- **CHILD FOCUSED PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT WITHIN CARE PROCEEDINGS**
- **THREE CHILDREN AGED 8, 6 AND 4 YEARS**
- **CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**
- **MOTHER HAS CONTACT THREE TIMES EACH WEEK AND SEEKS RETURN OF CHILDREN**
- **SEVERAL ASSESSMENTS FILED IN PROCEEDINGS – ADULT PSYCHIATRIST, SW.**

ASSESSMENT TOOLS USED

- **STORY STEMS (HODGES ET AL)**
- **LOWENFELD SAND WORK (M LOWENFELD)**
- **FAMILY RELATIONS TEST (BENE ANTONY)**
- **CHILD ATTACHMENT INTERVIEW (Yael SHMUELI-GOETZ)**
- **FAMILY ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW(BENTOVIM)**
- **ATTACHMENT STYLE INTERVIEW (BIFULCO)**
- **PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW (BIFULCO)**
- **SIBLING ASSESSMENT (LORD AND BORTHWICK)**

BRIEF BACKGROUND

MOTHER AGED 22 YEARS.

FATHER OF ELDEST FEMALE CHILD (8 YEARS OLD) IS UNKNOWN.

FATHER OF MIDDLE BOY CHILD (6 YEARS OLD) AND YOUNGEST CHILD (4 YEARS) SEEKS CARE OF MIDDLE CHILD ONLY. FATHER AGED 23YRS.

HISTORY OF SEVERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DRUG USE IN PARENTS RELATIONSHIP.

CHRONIC NEGLECT AND INJURY OF CHILDREN

PROFILE OF THE THREE CHILDREN

MARY , 8 YEARS. PARENTIFIED CHILD, ANXIOUS AND PREOCCUPIED, SUFFERS ENCOPRESIS.

PTSD. BROKEN ARM, SEXUALISED BEHAVIOUR.

“in case anyone hurts mummy,”

“Blanket over my head to stop them fighting and then Carl got shot.”

“I put a cover on mummy and fed Luke and read him a story but I was crying because it was the worst day. I thought mummy had died”.

PROFILE OF THE THREE CHILDREN

**TOM AGED 6 YEARS. OPPOSITIONAL AND
AGGRESSIVE, SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL.
DISORGANISED ATTACHMENT STYLE. HEAD INJURY**

**I don't want to live with my mummy again, she put my
head under the water".**

PROFILE OF THE THREE CHILDREN

LEO AGED 4 YEARS. OBESE PLACID CHILD, AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS MOTHER. ONLY SPEECH IS SWEARING. HEAD INJURY AT 2 YEARS . ROSIE HAS BEEN HIS MAIN CARER

“He drew on walls and furniture, and was fixated with buttons and food. He readily hits his siblings and he bites them constantly.”

ASSESSMENT OF THE PARENTS

- **PLEASE PUT THE FINDINGS MADE BY THE JUDGE AS A RESULT OF THE FACT FINDING HEARING TO MISS A AND MR B, RESPECTIVELY AND OBTAIN THEIR SPECIFIC RESPONSES THERETO;**
- **PLEASE ASSESS THEIR RESPECTIVE RESPONSES TO THE FINDINGS;**
- **PLEASE ASSESS BOTH PARENTS RESPECTIVE ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS THROUGHOUT THEIR MINORITIES;**
- **PLEASE ASSESS THEIR RESPECTIVE ABILITIES TO PROTECT EACH OF THE CHILDREN FROM FUTURE HARM AND EMOTIONAL NEGLECT;**

THE ATTACHMENT STYLE INTERVIEW IN ACTION

MOTHER ASI SCORE –MARKEDLY ANGRY DISMISSIVE

“I don’t tell him everything about me because it would put him off.”

“Because people just always let me down, they are two faced so I don’t trust, simple”.

“I once stabbed my brother’s head with scissors; I put a screwdriver into a girl at school. My mother told me that if someone bullies you at school go and get something heavier and harder and hit them back with.”

FATHER- ASI SCORE DUAL STYLE ENMESHED AND ANGRY DISMISSIVE.

“Mike was sleeping in the garage and he thieved from us, he took my aluminium wheels that were in the garage. Keith is just no good either, so no I don’t tell no one anything.”

“I am an outdoors person I have to be where people are, I don’t do being alone do I ?”

Linking Current parenting role and ASI overall style

MOTHER- MARKEDLY ANGRY DISMISSIVE

Hostile parenting, blames others, trusts no one

FATHER- DUAL STYLE ENMESHED AND ANGRY DISMISSIVE

Fear of being alone, angry, mistrustful.

CONCLUSION:-THESE ADULTS TOGETHER AS PARENTS PROVIDED NO SUPPORT TO ONE ANOTHER AND THE CHILDRENS' NEEDS WERE OVERLOOKED

THE PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW

Used to assess:-

- **Child Difficulties** in last year for Rosie, Timmy and Luke
 - **Parental Perception** of difficulties
 - Current **Positive Interaction** between parents and children
 - Current **Negative Interaction** between parents and children
 - **Felt Competence (self report) and Estimated objective competence** of mother and father (assessed separately)
 - **Felt Incompetence (self report) and Estimated objective incompetence**
 - **Any discrepancies between felt and estimated competence and incompetence**
 - **Overall current quality of parenting** for mother and father
- (Two Parenting Role Interviews therefore administered, rated and evidenced, one for mother and one for father)

THE PARENTING ROLE RESPONSES

Perception of the children's difficulties

Mothers perception of the children's difficulties

“They have been involved in incidents when he (father) put them in the road and tried to kill them and they have seen me being injured being kicked in the stomach while I was sitting on a wall and then I almost bled almost to death.”

“Rosie was tearful as she always is when she doesn't get her own way but otherwise they are fine.”

THE PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW EVIDENCE:-

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by difficulties with the children?

Mother: “it was too much then sometimes but I never hit them but I did shout. The social worker never left me alone. My mother cut my eye with an axe once when I was a kid. Timmy was hard work and the baby was dead spiteful but I love being a mum anyone knows that.”

Father “Her problem was she won’t be told what to do, if someone tells her what to do she gets the hump and flies off the handle”.

“ My sister taught me you have to cuddle kids and I like that, they were hard work but I liked that.”

THE PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW EVIDENCE:-

(Assessing Positive Interaction)

What is it like when you are with the children?

Mother “ I am as light as a feather at contact.”

What is the atmosphere like when you are together? “ I hate that woman who watches, the kids go to her don't they.”

“When they tell me how much they want to come home. They made me a Mothers Day Card at school”

Father “Billy (new baby) just wants mum all the time and not me.”

THE PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW EVIDENCE:-
(Assessing Negative interaction with the children)

Mother “ The baby gets spiteful and then I can’t handle it but then Timmy winds him up and Rosie wants her own way and moan moan moan”

Mother: “it was too much then sometimes but I never hit them but I did shout.

THE PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW EVIDENCE:-

(Assessing Felt Competence)

How good are you as a parent?

Mother. “Compared to my mum?, she was a brilliant parent. I am like her.”

Mother “I am really confident as a mother. I never imagine not being a parent, four children is ideal. Jake (new partner) will be amazing as a daddy.” I am as good as anyone else in my road, better, no one hurts my kids. Social aren't with me everyday”.

Father. “No way am I as good as my mum was, my sister was a very patient person. My step father should be killed. He hung me outside the 6th floor when I was 4 didn't he. I never done that to Timmy”

Father “I did everything I could, the records show that..”

THE PARENTING ROLE INTERVIEW EVIDENCE:- (Assessing Felt and Estimated Incompetence Key risk factor scale)

- Mother
- **Mother Felt Incompetence** was scored **LOW**
- **Mother Estimated Incompetence** (Objectively rated by the PRI interviewer) was scored **HIGH** (1:Marked)
- **Discrepancy** was therefore rated between the Mother's Felt and Estimated incompetence
- Father
- **Father Felt Incompetence** was scored **LOW (3: Some)**
- **Father said " I tried my best, I maybe wasn't as patient as I could have been but she wound me up"**
- **Father Estimated Incompetence** (Objectively rated by the PRI interviewer) was scored **HIGH** (1:Marked)
- **Discrepancy** was therefore rated between the Fathers's Felt and Estimated incompetence

PRI OVERALL RATINGS

1. ESTIMATED COMPETENCE AND INCOMPETENCE

- In their two separate PRI's both parents were rated as having high Estimated Incompetence and low Estimated Competence

2. OVERALL QUALITY OF PARENTING ROLE AS RATED IN THE PRI

•**MOTHER** Very Poor Parenting Role

•**FATHER** Poor Parenting Role

3. Current level of parenting insight/ discrepancy issues:

•Neither parent has insight or sufficient regard for the needs of their children.

•Considerable gap between Felt and Estimated Competence and Felt and Estimated Incompetence

HOW THE PRI ASSISTED THE COURT

- **Do the parents**
- **take appropriate responsibility?**
- **acknowledge the level of harm?**
- **acknowledge the need for protection?**
- **current difficulties motivation to achieve change?**
- **Do they have real potential to help children recover from abusive effects?**
- **likelihood of sustained change within the time frame of the child?**
- **potential for collaborative work?**

HOW THE PRI ASSISTED THE COURT

- ✓ **STANDARDISED TOOL**
- ✓ **WORDS USED BY THE PARENTS (RECORDED)**
- ✓ **EVIDENCE BASED - Differentiation between self report and objective evidence rated against established researched based scales that measure risk and resilience**
- ✓ **JARGON FREE**