

## **CHILD INITIAL SCRIPT**

### **STUDY INTRODUCTION & ASSENT (~20 min)**

- Thank the family for inviting you in their home and introduce each researcher. One researcher should focus on the child and do the child initial script.
- “Hi, my name is <name>. I’m a researcher at a university and I’m trying to figure out how to help kids and parents in families like your stay in touch. I’m going to tell you all about it after I get a chance to say hello to your mom/dad.”
- Provide the parent with the parental consent form and ask to give the assent form to the child.
- “Come on, I’ll tell you all about what we’re doing and you can decide whether you want to help us on this project.”
- Read the assent form out loud to the child slowly and clearly. Pause at the end of every paragraph for questions.
- Again at the end, ask if the child has any questions or worries
- If the child decides to participate, have them write their name on three copies of the assent form. File one, give one to parent for filing, and give the last one to the child. “Just in case you need to look at this later. And remember, that you can always ask your mom/dad or one of us if you have any questions or problems!”

### **INITIAL INTERVIEW & TOUR (~30 min)**

- “Okay, so today we’re going to start out by asking you some questions about your family. Then, we’re going to show you a special notebook that we’d like you to help us keep. Remember, you can always ask us to stop, take a break, or just skip to the next question.”
- “Since we’re going to be interviewing your mom/dad at the same time, we’d like to do it in different rooms. Would you be okay talking in a different room? If not, we can always come back here again.” <Proceed to interview the parent in one room and the child in another, if the parent and child agree. Otherwise use opposite corners of the same room.>
- “First, I’m going to ask you some questions about you and your mom and then I’ll ask you some questions about you and your dad. Okay? All right, let’s start with your mom.”
  - What are some of your favorite things to do with your mom? How do you have fun together?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - When do you go to your mom for help? How does she help you out?

- What do you talk about with your mom? What kinds of things do you like sharing with your mom?
  
- What are the different ways that you keep in touch with your mom while you're visiting your dad? How often do you and your mom do that?
  
- "Okay, now let's talk about your dad. Okay?"
  - What are some of your favorite things to do with your dad? How do you have fun together?
  
  - When do you go to your dad for help? How does he help you out?
  
  - What do you talk about with your dad? What kinds of things do you like sharing with your dad?
  
  - What are the different ways that you keep in touch with your dad while you're visiting your mom? How often do you and your dad do that?
  
- "Okay, how about we take a break and do some show-and-tell! I'd like you to show me some of your favorite things around the house."
  - Show me something that you and <residential parent> use to have fun together. What's fun about this?
  
  - Show me the place in the house where you and <residential parent> have the best talks. Why is this place such a good place to talk?
  
  - Show me the place in the house where you and <residential parent> work on something together. What do you work on here?

- Show me something that you have with you no matter whether you're at your mom's or your dad's. Why do you keep it with you?
  
- Show me something that you use to stay in touch with <non-residential parent>. What do you like about this? What don't you like about this?
  
- "Thank you so much for showing me around and telling me about everything! I'd like to ask you a few more questions, so how about we take a quick break and then go back to the room?"

#### QUESTIONNAIRES (~60 min)

- "We're going to read some questions to you. There are a lot of questions, so if you want to take a break at any time, just let us know and we can stop."
- "This is kind of like a game. I'll read something and you should let me know if you feel that way all the time, sometimes, very little, never, or somewhere in the middle. Let me know and I'll write it down here. I'll make one up as an example – if somebody read to me "I always want a bedtime story before going to bed," I would say 'sometimes' because most of the time I want one, but once in awhile I'm too tired and I just want to go to sleep. Being as honest as you can is really important here so we can figure out how kids like you really feel. But, if you really don't want to answer something, just say 'skip' and we'll go on to the next question. Do you understand?"<Put each affective costs and benefits questionnaire in front of the child and read it out loud to them over their shoulder>
- Repeat the ABCCT questionnaire for PERSON = remote parent and each of the up to 3 most used MEDIUM(s) they use
- "Now, in this second part, you're going to answer questions about your relationship with your mom, dad, (and step parents)." Read the questions out loud to the child and mark their answers.
- "Wow, we're done with these questions! I know this part wasn't that much fun but thank you for helping us anyway! We won't have to do questions like that again for awhile!"

#### DIARY INTRODUCTION (~15 min)

- "Okay, so we're almost done for this week. We'll have a lot fewer questions to answer the next week that we see each other. But, there is something that I need your help on in the meantime."
- Show the notebook containing the diary sheets.
- "We'll leave this notebook here right next to the <place/device used most often for distributed communication>. And I'll also leave another one just like it at your <non-residential parent's> house. What I'd like you to do when you're staying with your

mom is to fill out one of these pages for every time that you talk to your dad, whether it's by phone, or email, or you're playing a game online together. Do you see all the different sections here?"

- Read a single diary worksheet out loud, explaining each section:
  - "You can just circle the picture that fits the best. You can even circle more than one picture. For example, sometimes after I talk to my mom on the phone, I feel happy because we always joke around together and have fun, but also I feel sad because I can't give her a hug over the phone... So, if that's the way that I was feeling, I might circle both the sad and the happy face at the same time."
  - "There's also some space here to draw your own pictures if you wanted to!"
- "Okay, so when you're staying with mom you should fill one of these out for every time you talk to your dad on the phone or something. And when you're visiting or staying with dad, you should fill one of these out for every time that you talk to your mom on the phone. Does that make sense?"
- "If you get confused, you can always ask your mom or dad for help. Or you can wait until you see me again next week. Do you have any questions for me about it right now?"

WRAP UP (~5 min)

- "Thank you so much for helping us out! We'll be back next week to visit you again! Remember to keep filling out that diary notebook, okay?"