

PARENT INITIAL SCRIPT

STUDY INTRODUCTION & CONSENT (~30 min)

- Thank the family for inviting you in their home and introduce each researcher. One researcher should focus on the parent and do the parent initial script.
- “My name is <name> and I am a researcher at Georgia Tech. We are examining how we could help parents and children use technology to interact when they are apart. We hope that this project will lead to the creation of innovations that will help parents stay in touch with their children. So, let us start by telling you a little bit about the study so that you can decide whether you and your family should participate.”
- Give the parent 2 copies of the informed consent form. Give them time to read.
- When they’re done examining everything, summarize a few points verbally:
- “For this first part of the study, we want to see how your family stays in-touch right now by asking you to fill out diaries. In the next two weeks, we’ll install the ShareTable in your household and that of the other parent. You may keep it for a month. After the month is up, the ShareTable will have to move on to another family. But, we’ll ask you to continue filling out diaries for two weeks afterwards.”
- “You can stop participating in this study at ANY time. The study will also end if your child or your ex-partner wants to stop it.”
- “We understand that the home is a very private setting. We’re honored that you’re willing to share your life with us in order to help us learn how families like yours stay in touch. As researchers, we will keep anything we discover confidential to the extent allowed by law. However, we must be clear that data you may share is not protected against possibly being subpoenaed as evidence in a court of law, so we urge you not to disclose anything that you would be uncomfortable with being shared in such a setting. We will maintain this data securely (in a locked cabinet and on a secure computer at Georgia Tech); it will only be accessed by authorized researchers. If we end up writing about the results of this study in a publication, we will make sure to change any information identifying your family, such as names.”
- Ask if the parent has any questions or comments about the study.
- If the parent chooses to continue, ask them to sign and date 2 copies of the informed consent form—file one, give the other back to the parent.
- Provide the parent with a copy of the parental consent form. Give them a chance to read through and reflect and answer any questions that they may have. If they choose to continue, ask them to sign and date 2 copies of the parental consent form—file one, give the other back to the parent.
- Once the child finishes with the assent forms, give one of the copies of the assent form to the parent.
- “Today, we want to begin by asking you some questions about your relationship with your child. If you’re okay with it, we would like to interview you and your child in different rooms. This would let both of you be honest without worrying about being overheard. If you’re uncomfortable with that now or at any point, let us know and we can move back to the same room.”

- <Separate the parent and child if they both agree. If they do not want to separate, interview in opposite corners of the same room. Answer any questions the parent has up to this point.>

INITIAL INTERVIEW AND QUESTIONNAIRES (~40 min)

- “We will start off with some questionnaires about you and your child and an interview about how you and your child currently interact.”
- Give the parent with the demographics information sheet to fill out
- “This next questionnaire measures different aspects of communication through technology. Please choose the best answer based on your current situation.”
- Give the parent the Affective Benefits and Costs Questionnaires for up to 3 most commonly used media to stay in touch
- Give the parent the NRI Questionnaire
- “Thank you! Now, we’d like to ask you some more open-ended questions about your relationship with your child. As we previously mentioned, we would like to audio record this portion to transcribe it later. Is that okay with you?”
 - What are some of your favorite things to do with your child when you’re together? What are some ways that you play together?
 - When does your child come to you for help? When do you offer help to your child? What kinds of activities do you and your child do together?
 - What are the places or situations where you tend to have the best conversations with your child? What do you talk about?
 - How do you negotiate your own privacy and autonomy with the other parent?

- What do you currently see as the most frustrating aspects of your current visitation arrangement?

- What communication technologies do you use the most? Which of these do you use to communicate with your child while apart?

- How do you normally stay in touch while your child is visiting the other parent? How and what do you usually share (information, objects, photos, etc.) with your child? How does your child share with you?

- What are some frustrating experiences that you have had with communication technologies? What are some rewarding experiences?

- What do you currently see as the main challenge of maintaining contact while your child is away?

- “Thank you very much for your time and honesty.”

DIARY INTRODUCTION (~15 min)

- “Okay, so we’re almost done for this week. From now until the end of the study, we’re going to ask you and your child to maintain a diary of your long-distance interactions.”
- Show the notebook containing the diary sheets for the adult and show an example diary sheet for a child. Ask them about the best place to put this notebook so that they will remember to fill it out.

- “We will leave one notebook for your child here and another at the other parent’s home. Your child should fill out a page in this notebook whenever he/she communicates with the other parent while staying here (for example, if they call each other or if they chat online). Similarly, if your child is staying with the other parent, he/she should fill out a page for each time you two contact each other. We will really be relying on you to make sure that your child remembers to do this activity, so we would appreciate any reminders that you could give them whether they are staying with you or with the other parent.”
- “Additionally, we would appreciate if you would fill out the adult version of this diary for every interaction that you have while your child is staying with the other parent. When we come back next week, we will review these together and try to remember the context of some of these interactions.”
- “If you or your child has any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact us.”

WRAP UP (~5 min)

- “Thank you so much for helping us out! We’ll be back next week to visit you again!”
- Schedule the next meeting with the parent