

Scoring for the Caregiver's Feeding Styles Questionnaire

We have used both typological and dimensional approaches to scoring the CFSQ. As argued by Laurence Steinberg with general parenting measures, both typological and dimensional approaches have merit and are based on different assumptions.

In the *typological* approach (used for research purposes), the general pattern, organization, and climate of parental feeding is of primary interest. Using that typology with the CFSQ, two scores are derived – demandingness and responsiveness. To score demandingness, a total mean score is calculated across all items; to score responsiveness, a ratio of child-centered items over the total score is calculated.

However, with the *dimensional* approach, which can be used as a clinical tool, different aspects of parenting are assessed in order to test specific hypotheses regarding parenting practices and child outcomes. Continuous scores are derived to determine different aspects of feeding such as parent-centered/high control, parent-centered/contingency management, and child-centered feeding practices.

In the typological approach, parents are placed into 1 of 4 categories (authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent, and uninvolved). In the dimensional approach, the parent is given a score for each of 3 subscales (parent-centered/high control, parent-centered/contingency management, child-centered feeding practices).

Typological Approach (used primarily for research purposes):

1. Calculate the two scores of demandingness and responsiveness:
 - Demandingness: the mean of the 19 items
Mean (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16+17+18+19)
 - Responsiveness: the mean of 7 items (child-centered) over the total mean
Mean (3+4+6+8+9+15+17)
Mean (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16+17+18+19)
2. Calculate median splits for the sample on two dimensions of demandingness and responsiveness. Categorize the sample participants into high and low categories on demandingness and responsiveness.
3. Participants can be categorized into feeding styles based on their scores on demandingness and responsiveness.

Authoritative Feeding Style - high demandingness/high responsiveness

Authoritarian Feeding Style - high demandingness/low responsiveness

Indulgent Feeding Style - low demandingness/high responsiveness

Uninvolved Feeding Style - low demandingness/low responsiveness

Dimensional Approach (used as a clinical tool):

Parent-centered/High Control – Mean (1+16+19)

Parent-centered/Contingency Management – Mean (2+12+18+14)

Child-centered – Mean (3+4+6+9+15+17)

Typological Approach to Feeding Styles

