

Difficult Behaviour

If not already encountered:

Was difficult in the day?

Get description.

If not:

When was the last time was difficult? What happened?

Get description of the child behaviour and the parent response, the effect on the parent's day and the other family members. Enquire specifically about parent losing temper and spanking and whether child expresses anger or hits parent. Note the parent's response.

Approaches include:

How did you feel? (when the child was difficult) How angry did you get? How angry did s/he make you? What did you do? Did you raise your voice? Did you get to the point of shouting? Did you feel like hitting her/him? What happened? Did you think s/he need a spank?

How often does it get to that point? How often in the last week? (items 18, 40, 41, 52)

If parent does not respond to question about child being difficult, ask whether the child has had a temper tantrum. If so, ask about the last time and get a description. Ask about the parent's actions and feelings and how often temper tantrums occur.

Is ... ever demanding? When was the last time? Can you describe what happened?

When did you last have to stop ... doing something? What was that? What happened? (items 18, 40, 41, 52).

If not mentioned in the course of the above enquiries:

Most parents spank their children at some time. When was the last time s/he needed a spank? Get description of circumstances.

How often has that sort of thing happened in the last week? (item 52)

Has done anything in the last week you were particularly pleased about? What happened? What did you do?

Was there anything else?