

PERSONAL

A UNIQUE DESIGN

EVALUATION

FOR PARENTS

YES NO

- ___ ___ Do I speak my child's name with pleasure?
- ___ ___ Do I frequently yell for/at my child when it's bedtime, etc.?
- ___ ___ Do I establish eye-contact with my child as much as I can?
- ___ ___ Do I make promises to my child and then forget to keep them?
- ___ ___ Do I call my child by his real name, rather than by a nickname?
- ___ ___ Do I compare my child with other children, or with siblings?
- ___ ___ Do I frequently mention specific actions or qualities I appreciate about my child?
- ___ ___ Do I ever find myself slipping with words like 'slowpoke', 'stupid', 'messy', 'selfish', etc.?
- ___ ___ Do I talk about my child in only positive ways when he may be listening?
- ___ ___ Do I use my best manners when with my child?
- ___ ___ Do I compliment my child on his inner qualities rather than his outward appearance?
- ___ ___ Is there something unchangeable about my child I would change if I could?
- ___ ___ Does my child actually FEEL loved by me?
- ___ ___ Do I maintain an attitude of anticipation as to what my child may become rather than expecting a particular performance for my own satisfaction?
- ___ ___ Have I assigned responsibilities within our home to my child?
- ___ ___ Do I faithfully see that he follows through with his responsibility?
- ___ ___ Do I communicate facial expressions of, "How could you do a stupid thing like that?"
- ___ ___ Do I talk about my child being shy, showing off, being slow, bossy, etc. in his presence or within his hearing?
- ___ ___ Can I honestly say that I appreciate my child?
- ___ ___ Do I guide other family members to appreciate and respect each child in our family?
- ___ ___ Do I cause my child to feel that his work is "little kid stuff?"
- ___ ___ In a fun experience, do I think, speak, or conclude FOR my child, rather than let him discover on his own?

PERSONAL EVALUATION OF THE CHILD

YES NO

- _____ _____ My child talks a lot about his physical appearance (hair, etc.).
- _____ _____ My child frequently says negative things about God, people, situations, or himself.
- _____ _____ My child has difficulty in responding to his peers.
- _____ _____ My child complains a lot.
- _____ _____ My child is not readily willing to try new things.
- _____ _____ My child resists authority.
- _____ _____ My child is developing a sophisticated attitude.
- _____ _____ My child is not sensitive or aware of other children's needs.
- _____ _____ My child makes up stories or tells lies.
- _____ _____ My child feels it is important to have lots of toys and possessions....or the best and the most.
- _____ _____ My child withdraws from groups of children.
- _____ _____ My child becomes upset when unable to accomplish a new task.
- _____ _____ My child idolizes some TV character or experiences frequent fantasy as some person or animal.
- _____ _____ My child doesn't look me in the eye when I talk with him.
- _____ _____ My child plays a particular role quite consistently (such as a baby, a dog, etc.).
- _____ _____ My child doesn't seem to like himself.
- _____ _____ My child may comment, "See how strong I am," "Know what, I can run faster than _____."
- _____ _____ My child tattles frequently.
- _____ _____ My child talks incessantly.
- _____ _____ My child bosses others frequently.
- _____ _____ My child doesn't make friends easily.

YOUR MARK ON ME . . .

Myrtes Mathias is the poet laureate of the Christian community in Brazil, South America. She attended the Seminar in Rio de Janeiro in June 1974. She has published ten books which are widely read throughout the country. The following poem, YOUR MARK ON ME, was written as a result of her hearing the illustration given in this section of the material. Though it was written in Portuguese and some of the insight was lost in the translation, the requests for copies have been numerous as we have shared this with others.

YOUR MARK ON ME

How wonderful, Lord, to discover
that this scar is your mark on me.
After so many years of bitterness,
finally, I can thank you
for having made me exactly like I am.

Because I was formed
by a pattern not considered attractive by the world,
I had to open my own way with great effort:
like a plant that springs up a rocky soil
or a seed that falls among thorns.

As the oyster reacts to its wounds,
I will give to my life
a new significance:
Unable to transmit a message
to the eyes of my neighbor,
I will speak directly to his heart.

And this I will do as brother to brother,
saying to each one who is unhappy:
I understand your disillusion,
I, also, have my scar.
I too wandered along the road of life,
searching for a solution to my problem;
until I discovered that that which tormented me
was simply the mark of ownership
that God had placed on me.

So, I want you to say with me
that almost impossible prayer:
"Thank you, Lord, for my weaknesses,
for all that you permit me to suffer.
Transform my problem into a blessing,
from tragedy help me to make a poem:
give me the grace to recognize
that I am only a part of a plan
to which I must submit myself."

To Pastor Larry Coy,
with the gratitude of his students
Conflicts of Life Seminar
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil