

Marschak Interaction Method (MIM) Assessment

The MIM is a structured technique for observing and assessing the overall quality and nature of relationships between caregivers and child. It consists of a series of simple games designed to elicit behaviours in four primary dimensions in order to evaluate the caregivers' capacity to and the child's ability to respond to the caregivers' efforts:

- Set limits and provide an appropriately ordered environment (Structure)
- Engage the child in interaction while being attuned to the child's state (Engagement)
- Meet the child's needs for attention, soothing and care (Nurture)
- Support and encourage the child's efforts to achieve at a developmentally appropriate level (Challenge)

The MIM assessment takes 30 to 60 minutes and is videotaped. There are sets of activities designed to be used in each of four age groups: infant, toddler, pre-school/school age, and adolescent. Materials needed to perform the tasks are simple and readily available. Family MIM's can also be undertaken

In addition to allowing a close look at problem areas in the relationship, the MIM provides a unique opportunity for observing the strengths of both adult and child and of their relationship. It is, therefore, a valuable tool in planning for therapeutic interventions and in determining how to help families strengthen their relationships.

Process:

- Referral
- Assessment session
- Report
- Feedback session



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