This is My Baby Interview

What are we coding for?

There are three scales coded from the TIMB interview: Acceptance, Commitment, and Belief in Influence. Acceptance refers to the degree to which the parent speaks positively about the child and regards the child in a positive way; it also involves the degree to which the parent accepts the child as an individual with his or her own needs and wishes. Commitment refers to the degree to which the parent emotionally invests in parenting the child and view the child as his or her own while the child is in his or her care. Belief in Influence (or awareness of influence) refers to the degree to which the parent thinks that his or her relationship with the child will have an effect on the child's development; furthermore, this scale takes into account whether the parent primarily focuses on the child's psychological/social/emotional development versus more concrete outcomes, such as education.

Common errors in administration:

- Reading the questions directly from the paper in a robotic manner
- Failing to probe when not enough information is provided
- Failing to clarify a question when a parent misunderstood it (especially question about child leaving parent's care)
- Cutting off parent's speech, or jumping in too early with next question
- Child being present during the interview

Tips for great interviewing:

- Be familiar with the questions, so that you can deliver them in a conversational manner while still adhering to the wording.
- If responses are brief, follow up with open-ended questions, such as those suggested on the revised protocol (e.g., "Tell me more about that.").
- If parent responds to a question in a way that does not answer the question, restate the question for clarification purposes (e.g., "Okay, that gives me a sense of how you would feel if he left for a couple of days, but what I am really wondering is what it would be like if he left your care *forever.*").
- Be prepared with alternative wording, in case a parent doesn't understand the question.
- Always allow parents to complete their own sentences. Do not lead parents by offering your own wording. (e.g., Don't say, "It sounds like he's pretty challenging…")
- Before moving on to the next question, pause long enough to see whether parent will continue talking. Often, eye contact and nodding will be enough prompting for the parent to continue talking.
- Avoid saying "Okay, and…" in between questions. This makes the interview feel more like you're reading a questionnaire.
- Coders are not there with you… If a parent nods "yes," or shakes his or her head "no," coders can't see it! You should say, "So you're nodding…"
- Really LISTEN to what parents are saying. This will not only help you know whether or not to probe, but it helps the parent feel comfortable.
- When possible, conduct interview in a quiet space without the child present.