

**A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE  
ABEL-BECKER COGNITION SCALE FOR USE WITH  
INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED SEX OFFENDERS**

by

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### Abel-Becker Cognition Scale

Read each of the statements below carefully, and then circle the number that indicates your agreement with it.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral (neither agree or disagree)
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. If a young child stares at my genitals it means the child likes what she (he) sees and is enjoying watching my genitals.                                   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. A man (or woman) is justified in having sex with his (her) children or step-children, if his (her) wife (husband) doesn't like sex.                        | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. A child 13 or younger can make her (his) own decision as to whether she (he) wants to have sex with an adult or not.                                       | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. A child who doesn't physically resist an adult's sexual advances, really wants to have sex with the adult.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. If a 13 year old (or younger) child flirts with an adult, it means he (she) wants to have sex with the adult.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. Sex between a 13 year old (or younger child) and an adult causes the child no emotional problems.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. Having sex with a child is a good way for an adult to teach the child about sex.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. If I tell my young child (step-child or close relative) what to do sexually and they do it, that means they will always do it because they really want to. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 9. When a young child has sex with an adult, it helps the child learn how to relate to adults in the future.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral (neither agree or disagree)
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 10. Most children 13 (or younger) would enjoy having sex with an adult, and it wouldn't harm the child in the future.               | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. Children don't tell others about having sex with a parent (or other adult) because they really like it and want it to continue. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 12. Sometimes in the future, our society will realize that sex between a child and an adult is all right.                           | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 13. An adult can tell if having sex with a young child will emotionally damage the child in the future.                             | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 14. An adult just feeling a child's body all over without touching her (his) genitals is not really being sexual with the child.    | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 15. I show my love and affection to a child by having sex with her (him).   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 16. It's better to have sex with your child (or someone else's child) than to have an affair.                                       | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 17. An adult fondling a young child or having the child fondle the adult will not cause the child any harm.                         | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 18. A child will never have sex with an adult unless the child really wants to.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 19. My daughter (son) or other young child knows that I will still love her (him) even if she (he) refuses to be sexual with me.    | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 20. When a young child asks an adult about sex, it means she (he) wants to see the adult's sex organs or have sex with the adult.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral (neither agree or disagree)
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 21. If an adult has sex with a young child it prevents the child from having sexual hang-ups in the future.                                     | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 22. When a young child walks in front of me with no or only a few clothes on, she (he) is trying to arouse me.                                  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 23. My relationship with daughter (son) or other child is strengthened by the fact that we have sex together.                                   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 24. If a child has sex with an adult, the child will look back at the experience as an adult and see it as a positive experience.               | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 25. The only way I could do harm to a child when having sex with her (him) would be to use physical force to get her (him) to have sex with me. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 26. When children watch an adult masturbate, it helps the child learn about sex.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 27. An adult can know just how much sex between him (her) and a child will hurt the child later on.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 28. If a person is attracted to sex with children, he (she) should solve that problem themselves and not talk to professionals.                 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 29. There is no effective treatment for child molestation.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |

### Modified Abel-Becker Cognition Scale

Read each of the statements below. Then circle the number that matches how you think about it.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral (don't really agree or disagree)
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. If a child looks at my crotch it means they know and like what they are doing.               | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. It is O.K. for a man to have sex with his child if his wife or girlfriend does not like sex. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. Children can make up their own minds if they want to have sex with an adult.                 | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. If a child does not fight off an adult it means they want to have sex.                       | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. If a child flirts with an adult it means they want to have sex.                              | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. When an adult has sex with a child it does not hurt the child's feelings.                    | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. Having sex with a child is a good way for the child to learn about sex.                      | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. If a child does what I want them to do sexually once, it means they will always want to.     | 1 2 3 4 5 |

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral (neither agree or disagree)
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 9. When a child has sex with an adult, it helps the child get along with adults in the future.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 10. Most children would like to have sex with an adult, and it won't hurt them in the future.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. Children do not tell about having sex because they like it and want it more.                | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 12. In the future, people will think that sex between a child and an adult is O.K.              | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 13. An adult can tell if having sex with a child is going to hurt the child in the future.      | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 14. When you feel a child's body it is not being sexual unless you touch the child's sex parts. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 15. I show my love to children by having sex with them.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 16. It is better to have sex with a child than to have an affair.                               | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 17. Just touching a child's sex parts or having them touch you won't hurt the child.            | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 18. A child won't have sex with an adult unless the child wants to.                             | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 19. Children know that I still love them even if they don't want to have sex with me.           | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 20. When children ask adults about sex it means they want to have sex with them.                | 1 2 3 4 5 |

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral (neither agree or disagree)
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 21. When children have sex with an adult it stops them from being scared of sex in the future.                | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 22. If a child walks around with no clothes on it means they are trying to turn me on.                        | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 23. When I have sex with a child it makes my relationship with them better.                                   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 24. If a child has sex with an adult they will grow up and think back on it as a good experience.             | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 25. The only way to hurt a child while having sex with them is by using force.                                | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 26. When children watch adults play with themselves it helps the child learn about sex.                       | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 27. Adults know just how much sex will hurt the child later on.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 28. Adults who like sex with children should solve that problem on their own and not talk to others about it. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 29. There is no good treatment for child molesters.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |