



To the parents in my practice,

None of us grew up in a perfect family. Some of us, however, grew up in very dysfunctional or unsafe homes. As your pediatrician, it is helpful for me to know specifically what you experienced while growing up. It helps me to better think about how to support your own parenting skills through what might be challenging times or experiences. For example, if you grew up in a household where you did not have enough to eat, will that make it harder to know how much your child should eat at any given age? If you were physically abused as a child, how will you feel or react when your toddler hits you out of frustration or anger?

**AND**, it is also very important to know that an unsafe or dysfunctional home is only *part* of anyone's story. We also know that resilience, the ability to 'bounce back', is just as important as adversity.

On the reverse side of this letter is a questionnaire asking about your own Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) followed by a questionnaire about resilience. Thank you for sharing this information with me. Your personal information will be kept confidential. We will track overall information obtained in order to make decisions about services to offer within the clinic.

For more information about ACEs and the importance of resilience, the following websites may be helpful:

[acestudy.org](http://acestudy.org)  
[resiliencetrumpsaces.org](http://resiliencetrumpsaces.org)

Thank you,

Drs. Gillespie, Lacey, Pettersen, Pereira, Puterbaugh, Reynolds, Rosborough, Thompson.

## Finding Your ACE Score

### While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life:

1. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often or very often**... Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you?  
**or**  
Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often or very often**... Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you?  
**or**  
**Ever** hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you **ever**...  
Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way?  
**or**  
Attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did you **often or very often** feel that ...  
No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special?  
**or**  
Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you **often or very often** feel that ...  
You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you?  
**or**  
Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Were your parents **ever** separated or divorced?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Was your mother or stepmother:  
**Often or very often** pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her?  
**or**  
**Sometimes, often, or very often** kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard?  
**or**  
**Ever** repeatedly hit at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Did a household member go to prison?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Now add up your "Yes" answers: \_\_\_\_\_ This is your ACE Score

## Resilience Score

Please answer the questions below using the following scoring guide:

<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Definitely Not True	Probably Not True	Not Sure	Probably True	Definitely True

1. I believe my mother loved me when I was little. 0 1 2 3 4
  
2. I believe that my father loved me when I was little. 0 1 2 3 4
  
3. When I was little, other people helped my parents take care of me and they seemed to love me. 0 1 2 3 4
  
4. I've heard that when I was an infant, someone in my family enjoyed playing with me and I enjoyed it too. 0 1 2 3 4
  
5. When I was a child, there were relatives in my family who helped me feel better when I was sad or worried. 0 1 2 3 4
  
6. When I was a child, neighbors or my friends' parents seemed to like me. 0 1 2 3 4
  
7. When I was a child, teachers, coaches, youth leaders or ministers were there to help me. 0 1 2 3 4
  
8. Someone in my family cared about how I was doing in school. 0 1 2 3 4
  
9. My family, friends neighbors and friends talked about making our lives better. 0 1 2 3 4
  
10. We had rules in our house and were expected to keep them. 0 1 2 3 4
  
11. When I felt really bad, I could almost always find someone I trusted to talk to. 0 1 2 3 4
  
12. As a youth, people noticed that I was capable and could get things done. 0 1 2 3 4
  
13. I was independent and a go-getter. 0 1 2 3 4
  
14. I believe that life is what you make it. 0 1 2 3 4
  
15. There are people I can count on now in my life. 0 1 2 3 4

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Concerns:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I would be interested in:
- Parenting Classes
  - Parent Support Groups
  - Visiting Home Nurse Programs
  - Twitter Feeds: (helpful hints on parenting)
  - More information on your Web Site
  - Relief Nursery Services
  - Other (please tell us more) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This questionnaire was filled out by:  Mom  Dad