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**From the Selected Works of Greg Moran**

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# Maternal Behavior Q-Sort (MBQS) – Overview, Available Materials and Support

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## The Maternal Behavior Q-Sort (MBQS) – Overview, Available Materials and Support

The Maternal Behaviour Q-Sort was developed by David Pederson, Greg Moran and Sandi Bento to describe the quality of mother-infant interaction based largely on Mary Ainsworth's concept of maternal sensitivity. The MBQS has now been used extensively based on home observations and a variety of video-recorded samples of interaction. There are a number of versions, including the standard 90-item card set and a mini-MBQS, 25-item set that involves less time and is well-suited to videorecordings of interaction in a limited context but, of course, provides a less detailed description of the interaction. The instrument has also been used to produce a number of different metrics for analysis, including a global measure of sensitivity describing a mother's interaction relative to a prototypically sensitive interaction, measures derived from q-factor analyses, and rationally defined measures that describe the substance or content of the interaction.

This section of our website contains a number of documents related to the MBQS. We are continually adding to this list. The first document contains the 90-item sort and information relevant to its use. Although this document is described as a manual, we have developed a much more extensive MBQS Manual - *Assessing Maternal Sensitivity and the Quality of Mother-Infant Interactions Using The Maternal Behaviour Q-Sort (MBQS)* - that includes more detailed background on the MBQS and its use in research as well as recommendations regarding such matters as structuring a home visit, videotaping, and training and maintaining coder reliability. This more complete manual is available by request (<mailto:g Moran2@uwo.ca>)

Although the MBQS manual is designed to provide the information necessary to apply the instrument without formal instruction, ideally, it is preferable for those new to the MBQS to train with a group that has some experience. We have occasionally offered brief training sessions here, at Western, and will consider requests to do so again in the future.

Please contact us at anytime should you have any questions regarding the use of the MBQS.

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