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## DISENGAGED MOTHER

(NOT A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR)

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If you have a low mother-disengagement score, you may find that your mother was either attentive to you and attuned to your needs or tended to be overinvolved in your life. If the latter, this overinvolvement could be characterized as rigid or emotionally enmeshed. See your scores in “Rigid Mother,” “Enmeshed Mother,” and “Secure Family” for more information.

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**DESCRIPTION:** Disengagement occurs when a mother withdraws physically or emotionally from her child’s life. Examples of this could include a mother spending excessive hours at work; choosing to offer her love and support to another child; avoiding developmentally appropriate conversations about such things as sex, nutrition, and self-care; and choosing to ignore the needs of a child in times of anxiety, sorrow, or anger. Children of disengaged parents were also the most susceptible to experiencing sexual abuse.