
Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths

Standard CANS Comprehensive 3.0

Ages 6 through 20

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REFERENCE
GUIDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A large number of individuals have collaborated in the development of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths. Along with the CANS, versions for developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, and child welfare, this information integration tool is designed to support individual case planning and the planning and evaluation of service systems. The CANS is an open domain tool for use in multiple child-serving systems that address the needs and strengths of children, youth, and their families. The copyright is held by the Praed Foundation to ensure that it remains free to use. Training and annual certification is expected for appropriate use.

We are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment. It is important to consider how we are precisely and inclusively using individual words. As such, this reference guide uses the gender-neutral pronouns “they/them/themselves” in the place of “he/him/himself” and “she/her/herself.”

Additionally, “child/youth” is being utilized in reference to “child,” “youth,” “adolescent,” or “young adult.” This is due to the broad range of ages to which this manual applies (e.g., ages 6 through 20 years old).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	2
INTRODUCTION	4
THE CANS.....	4
SIX KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE CANS	4
HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE CANS	4
HISTORY	5
MEASUREMENT PROPERTIES	5
RATING NEEDS & STRENGTHS	6
HOW IS THE CANS-COMPREHENSIVE USED?	7
IT IS AN ASSESSMENT STRATEGY.....	7
IT GUIDES CARE AND TREATMENT/SERVICE PLANNING	8
IT FACILITATES OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT	8
IT IS A COMMUNICATION TOOL	8
CANS: A BEHAVIOR HEALTH CARE STRATEGY	8
MAKING THE BEST USE OF THE CANS	8
LISTENING USING THE CANS	9
REDIRECT THE CONVERSATION TO PARENTS'/CAREGIVERS' OWN FEELINGS AND OBSERVATIONS ..	9
ACKNOWLEDGE FEELINGS	9
WRAPPING IT UP	9
REFERENCES.....	11
CANS BASIC STRUCTURE.....	12
CORE ITEMS.....	12
LIFE FUNCTIONING DOMAIN	13
[A] DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS MODULE.....	16
STRENGTHS DOMAIN.....	23
CULTURAL FACTORS DOMAIN.....	33
CAREGIVER RESOURCES & NEEDS DOMAIN	36
BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS DOMAIN.....	42
[B] TRAUMA MODULE	48
1. TRAUMATIC/ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES	48
2. TRAUMATIC STRESS SYMPTOMS	53
[C] SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER MODULE	59
RISK BEHAVIORS DOMAIN.....	61
[D] VIOLENCE MODULE	63
HISTORICAL RISK FACTORS	63
EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL RISKS	65
RESILIENCY FACTORS.....	67
[E] SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR MODULE	69
[F] RUNAWAY MODULE.....	73
[G] JUVENILE JUSTICE MODULE	76
[H] FIRE SETTING MODULE	79

INTRODUCTION

THE CANS

The **Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)** is a multiple purpose information integration tool that is designed to be the output of an assessment process. The purpose of the CANS Comprehensive is to accurately represent the shared vision of the child/youth serving system—children, youth, and families. As such, completion of the CANS Comprehensive is accomplished in order to allow for the effective communication of this shared vision for use at all levels of the system. Since its primary purpose is communication, the CANS Comprehensive is designed based on communication theory rather than the psychometric theories that have influenced most measurement development. There are six key principles of a communimetric measure that apply to understanding the CANS Comprehensive.

SIX KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE CANS

1. **Items were selected because they are each relevant to service/treatment planning.** An item exists because it might lead you down a different pathway in terms of planning actions.
2. **Each item uses a 4-level rating system that translates into action.** Different action levels exist for needs and strengths. For a description of these action levels please see below.
3. **Rating should describe the child/youth, not the child/youth in services.** If an intervention is present that is masking a need but must stay in place, this should be factored into the rating consideration and would result in a rating of an “actionable” need (i.e. ‘2’ or ‘3’).
4. **Culture and development should be considered prior to establishing the action levels.** Cultural sensitivity involves considering whether cultural factors are influencing the expression of needs and strengths. Ratings should be completed considering the child/youth’s developmental and/or chronological age depending on the item. In other words, anger control is not relevant for a very young child but would be for an older youth or youth regardless of developmental age. Alternatively, school achievement should be considered within the framework of expectations based on the child/youth’s developmental age.
5. **The ratings are generally “agnostic as to etiology.”** In other words this is a descriptive tool; it is about the “what” not the “why.” While most items are purely descriptive, there are a few items that consider cause and effect; see individual item descriptions for details on when the “why” is considered in rating these items.
6. **A 30-day window is used for ratings in order to make sure assessments stay relevant to the child/youth’s present circumstances.** However, the action levels can be used to over-ride the 30-day rating period.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE CANS

The CANS Comprehensive is a multi-purpose tool developed to support care planning and level of care decision-making, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services. The CANS was developed from a communication perspective in order to facilitate the linkage between the assessment process and the design of individualized service plans including the application of evidence-based practices.

The CANS Comprehensive gathers information on the child/youth’s and parents/caregivers’ needs and strengths. Strengths are the child/youth’s assets: areas in life where they are doing well or have an interest or ability. Needs are areas where a child/youth requires help or intervention. Care providers use an assessment process to get to know the child or youth and the families with whom they work and to understand their strengths and needs. The CANS helps care providers decide which of a child/youth’s needs are the most important to address in treatment or service planning. The CANS Comprehensive also helps identify strengths, which can be the basis of a treatment or service plan. By working with the child/youth and family during the assessment process and talking together about the CANS Comprehensive, care providers can develop a treatment or service plan that addresses a child/youth’s strengths and needs while building strong engagement.

The CANS Comprehensive is made up of domains that focus on various areas in a child/youth's life, and each domain is made up of a group of specific items. There are domains that address how the child/youth functions in everyday life, on specific emotional or behavioral concerns, on risk behaviors, on strengths and on skills needed to grow and develop. There is also a domain that asks about the family's beliefs and preferences, and about general family concerns. The care provider, along with the child/youth and family as well as other stakeholders, gives a number rating to each of these items. These ratings help the provider, child/youth and family understand where intensive or immediate action is most needed, and also where a child/youth has assets that could be a major part of the treatment or service plan.

The CANS Comprehensive ratings, however, do not tell the whole story of a child/youth's strengths and needs. Each section in the CANS Comprehensive is merely the output of a comprehensive assessment process and is documented alongside narratives where a care provider can provide more information about the child/youth.

HISTORY

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths grew out of John Lyons' work in modeling decision-making for psychiatric services. To assess appropriate use of psychiatric hospital and residential treatment services, the Childhood Severity of Psychiatric Illness (CSPI) tool was created. This measure assesses those dimensions crucial to good clinical decision-making for intensive mental health service interventions and was the foundation of the CANS. The CSPI tool demonstrated its utility in informing decision-making for residential treatment (Lyons, Mintzer, Kisiel, & Shallcross, 1998) and for quality improvement in crisis assessment services (Lyons, Kisiel, Dulcan, Chesler, & Cohen, 1997; Leon, Uziel-Miller, Lyons, & Tracy, 1998). The strength of this measurement approach has been that it is face valid and easy to use, yet provides comprehensive information regarding clinical status.

The CANS Comprehensive assessment builds upon the methodological approach of the CSPI, but expands the assessment to include a broader conceptualization of needs and an assessment of strengths – both of the child/youth and the caregiver, looking primarily at the 30-day period prior to completion of the CANS Comprehensive. It is a tool developed with the primary objective of supporting decision making at all levels of care: children, youth and families, programs and agencies, child/youth-serving systems. It provides for a structured communication and critical thinking about children/youth and their context. The CANS Comprehensive is designed for use either as a prospective assessment tool for decision support and recovery planning or as a retrospective quality improvement device demonstrating an individual child/youth's progress. It can also be used as a communication tool that provides a common language for all child/youth-serving entities to discuss the child/youth's needs and strengths. A review of the case record in light of the CANS Comprehensive assessment tool will provide information as to the appropriateness of the recovery plan and whether individual goals and outcomes are achieved.

Annual training and certification is required for providers who administer the CANS Comprehensive and their supervisors. Additional training is available for CANS super users as experts of CANS assessment administration, scoring, and use in the development of service or recovery plans.

MEASUREMENT PROPERTIES

Reliability

Strong evidence from multiple reliability studies indicates that the CANS can be completed reliably by individuals working with children/youth and families. A number of individuals from different backgrounds have been trained and certified to use the CANS assessment reliably including health and mental health providers, child welfare case workers, probation officers, and family advocates. With approved training, anyone with a bachelor's degree can learn to complete the tool reliably, although some applications or more complex versions of the CANS require a higher educational degree or relevant experience. The average reliability of the CANS is 0.78 with vignettes across a sample of more than 80,000 trainees. The reliability is higher (0.84) with case records, and can be above 0.90 with live cases (Lyons, 2009). The CANS is auditable and audit reliabilities demonstrate that the CANS is reliable at the item level (Anderson et al., 2001). Training and certification with a reliability of at least 0.70 on a test case vignette is required for ethical use. In most jurisdictions, re-certification is annual. A full discussion on the reliability of the CANS assessment is found in Lyons (2009) *Communimetrics: A Communication Theory of Measurement in Human Service Settings*.

Validity

Studies have demonstrated the CANS' validity, or its ability to measure children/youth's and their caregiver's needs and strengths. In a sample of more than 1,700 cases in 15 different program types across New York State, the total scores on the relevant dimensions of the CANS-Mental Health retrospectively distinguished level of care (Lyons, 2004). The CANS assessment has also been used to distinguish needs of children in urban and rural settings (Anderson & Estle, 2001). In numerous jurisdictions, the CANS has been used to predict service utilization and costs, and to evaluate outcomes of clinical interventions and programs (Lyons, 2004; Lyons & Weiner, 2009; Lyons, 2009). Five independent research groups in four states have demonstrated the reliability and validity of decision support algorithms using the CANS (Chor, et al., 2012, 2013, 2014; Cordell, et al., 2016; Epstein, et al., 2015; Israel, et al., 2015; Lardner, 2015).

RATING NEEDS & STRENGTHS

The CANS Comprehensive is easy to learn and is well liked by children, youth and families, providers and other partners in the services system because it is easy to understand and does not necessarily require scoring in order to be meaningful to the child/youth and family.

- ★ Basic core items – grouped by domain – are rated for all individuals.
- ★ A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on key core questions triggers extension modules.
- ★ Individual assessment module questions provide additional information in a specific area.

Each CANS Comprehensive rating suggests different pathways for service planning. There are four levels of rating for each item with specific anchored definitions. These item level definitions, however, are designed to translate into the following action levels (separate for needs and strengths):

Basic Design for Rating Needs

Rating	Level of Need	Appropriate Action
0	No evidence of need	No action needed
1	Significant history or possible need that is not interfering with functioning	Watchful waiting/prevention/additional assessment
2	Need interferes with functioning	Action/intervention required
3	Need is dangerous or disabling	Immediate action/Intensive action required

Basic Design for Rating Strengths

Rating	Level of Strength	Appropriate Action
0	Centerpiece strength	Central to planning
1	Strength present	Useful in planning
2	Identified strength	Build or develop strength
3	No strength identified	Strength creation or identification may be indicated

The rating of 'N/A' for 'not applicable' is available for a few items under specified circumstances (see reference guide descriptions). For those items where the 'N/A' rating is available, it should be used only in the rare instances where an item does not apply to that particular child/youth.

To complete the CANS Comprehensive, a CANS trained and certified care coordinator, case worker, clinician, or other care provider should read the anchor descriptions for each item and then record the appropriate rating on the CANS

Comprehensive form (or electronic record). This process should be done collaboratively with the child/youth, family and other stakeholders.

Remember that the item anchor descriptions are examples of circumstances which fit each rating ('0', '1', '2', or '3'). The descriptions, however, are not inclusive and the action level ratings should be the primary rating descriptions considered (see above). The rater must consider the basic meaning of each level to determine the appropriate rating on an item for an individual.

The CANS Comprehensive is an information integration tool, intended to include multiple sources of information (e.g., child/youth and family, referral source, treatment providers, school, and observation of the rater). As a strength-based approach, the CANS Comprehensive supports the belief that children, youth, and families have unique talents, skills, and life events, in addition to specific unmet needs. Strength-based approaches to assessment and service or treatment planning focus on collaborating with children/youth and their families to discover individual and family functioning and strengths. Failure to demonstrate a child/youth's skill should first be viewed as an opportunity to learn the skill as opposed to the problem. Focusing on the child/youth's strengths instead of weaknesses with their families may result in enhanced motivation and improved performance. Involving the family and child/youth in the rating process and obtaining information (evidence) from multiple sources is necessary and improves the accuracy of the rating. Meaningful use of the CANS Comprehensive and related information as tools (for reaching consensus, planning interventions, monitoring progress, psychoeducation, and supervision) support effective services for children, youth and families.

As a quality improvement activity, a number of settings have utilized a fidelity model approach to look at service/treatment/action planning based on the CANS Comprehensive assessment. A rating of '2' or '3' on a CANS Comprehensive need suggests that this area must be addressed in the service or treatment plan. A rating of a '0' or '1' identifies a strength that can be used for strength-based planning and a '2' or '3' a strength that should be the focus of strength-building activities, when appropriate. It is important to remember that when developing service and treatment plans for healthy child and youth trajectories, balancing the plan to address risk behaviors/needs and protective factors/strengths is key. It has been demonstrated in the literature that strategies designed to develop child and youth capabilities are a promising means for development, and play a role in reducing risky behaviors.

Finally, the CANS Comprehensive can be used to monitor outcomes. This can be accomplished in two ways. First, CANS Comprehensive items that are initially rated a '2' or '3' are monitored over time to determine the percentage of individuals who move to a rating of '0' or '1' (resolved need, built strength). Dimension scores can also be generated by summing items within each of the domains (Behavioral/Emotional Needs, Risk Behaviors, Functioning, etc.). These scores can be compared over the course of treatment. CANS Comprehensive dimension/domain scores have been shown to be valid outcome measures in residential treatment, intensive community treatment, foster care and treatment foster care, community mental health, and juvenile justice programs.

The CANS Comprehensive is an open domain tool that is free for anyone to use with training and certification. There is a community of people who use the various versions of the CANS and share experiences, additional items, and supplementary tools.

HOW IS THE CANS-COMPREHENSIVE USED?

The CANS Comprehensive is used in many ways to transform the lives of children, youth, and their families and to improve our programs. Hopefully, this guide will help you to also use the CANS Comprehensive as a multi-purpose tool.

IT IS AN ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

When initially meeting clients and their caregivers, this guide can be helpful in ensuring that all the information required is gathered. Most items include "Questions to Consider" which may be useful when asking about needs and strengths. These are not questions that must be asked, but are available as suggestions. Many clinicians have found this useful during initial sessions either in person or over the phone (if there are follow up sessions required) to get a full picture of needs before treatment or service planning and beginning therapy or other services.

IT GUIDES CARE AND TREATMENT/SERVICE PLANNING

When an item on the CANS is rated a '2' or '3' ('action needed' or 'immediate action needed') we are indicating not only that it is a serious need for our client, but one that we are going to attempt to work on during the course of our treatment. As such, when you write your treatment plan, you should do your best to address any needs, impacts on functioning, or risk factors that you rate as a 2 or higher in that document.

IT FACILITATES OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT

The CANS is often completed every 6 months to measure change and transformation. We work with children, youth, and families and their needs tend to change over time. Needs may change in response to many factors including quality clinical support provided. One way we determine how our supports are helping to alleviate suffering and restore functioning is by re-assessing needs, adjusting treatment or service plans, and tracking change.

IT IS A COMMUNICATION TOOL

When a client leaves a treatment program, a closing CANS may be completed to define progress, measure ongoing needs and help us make continuity of care decisions. Doing a closing CANS, much like a discharge summary, integrated with CANS ratings, provides a picture of how much progress has been made, and allows for recommendations for future care which ties to current needs. And finally, it allows for a shared language to talk about our child/youth and creates opportunities for collaboration. It is our hope that this guide will help you to make the most out of the CANS Comprehensive and guide you in filling it out in an accurate way that helps you make good clinical decisions.

CANS: A BEHAVIOR HEALTH CARE STRATEGY

The CANS is an excellent strategy in addressing children and youth's behavioral health care. As it is meant to be an outcome of an assessment, it can be used to organize and integrate the information gathered from clinical interviews, records reviews, and information from screening tools and other measures.

It is a good idea to know the CANS Comprehensive and use the domains and items to help with your assessment process and information gathering sessions/clinical interviews with the child/youth and family. This will not only help the organization of your interviews, but will make the interview more conversational if you are not reading from a form. A conversation is more likely to give you good information, so have a general idea of the items. The CANS Comprehensive domains can be a good way to think about capturing information. You can start your assessment with any of the sections—Life Domain Functioning or Behavioral/Emotional Needs, Risk Behaviors or Child/Youth Strengths, or Caregiver Resources & Needs—this is your judgment call. Sometimes, people need to talk about needs before they can acknowledge strengths. Sometimes, after talking about strengths, then they can better explain the needs. Trust your judgment, and when in doubt, always ask, "We can start by talking about what you feel that you and your child/youth need, or we can start by talking about the things that are going well and that you want to build on. Do you have a preference?"

Some people may "take off" on a topic. Being familiar with the CANS Comprehensive items can help in having more natural conversations. So, if the family is talking about situations around the youth's anger control and then shift into something like---"you know, he only gets angry when he is in Mr. S's classroom," you can follow that and ask some questions about situational anger, and then explore other school-related issues.

MAKING THE BEST USE OF THE CANS

Children and youth have families involved in their lives, and their family can be a great asset to their treatment. To increase family involvement and understanding, it is important to talk to them about the assessment process and describe the CANS Comprehensive and how it will be used. The description of the CANS Comprehensive should include teaching the child/youth and family about the needs and strengths rating scales, identifying the domains and items, as well as how the actionable items will be used in treatment or serving planning. When possible, share with the child/youth and family the CANS domains and items (see the CANS Comprehensive Core Item list on page 12) and encourage the family to look over the items prior to your meeting with them. The best time to do this is your decision—you will have a sense of the timing as you work with each family. Families often feel respected as partners when they are prepared for a meeting or a process. A copy of the completed CANS Comprehensive ratings should

be reviewed with each family. Encourage families to contact you if they wish to change their answers in any area that they feel needs more or less emphasis.

LISTENING USING THE CANS

Listening is the most important skill that you bring to working with the CANS Comprehensive. Everyone has an individual style of listening. The better you are at listening, the better the information you will receive. Some things to keep in mind that make you a better listener and that will give you the best information:

- ★ **Use nonverbal and minimal verbal prompts.** Head nodding, smiling and brief “yes,” “and”—things that encourage people to continue.
- ★ **Be nonjudgmental and avoid giving person advice.** You may find yourself thinking, “If I were this person, I would do x” or “That’s just like my situation, and I did x.” But since you are not that person, what you would do is not particularly relevant. Avoid making judgmental statements or telling them what you would do. It’s not really about you.
- ★ **Be empathic.** Empathy is being warm and supportive. It is the understanding of another person from their point of reference and acknowledging feelings. You demonstrate empathetic listening when you smile, nod, maintain eye contact. You also demonstrate empathetic listening when you follow the person’s lead and acknowledge when something may be difficult, or when something is great. You demonstrate empathy when you summarize information correctly. All of this demonstrates to the child or youth that you are with them.
- ★ **Be comfortable with silence.** Some people need a little time to get their thoughts together. Sometimes, they struggle with finding the right words. Maybe they are deciding how they want to respond to a question. If you are concerned that the silence means something else, you can always ask “Does that make sense to you?” Or “Do you need me to explain that in another way?”
- ★ **Paraphrase and clarify—avoid interpreting.** Interpretation is when you go beyond the information given and infer something—in a person’s unconscious motivations, personality, etc. The CANS Comprehensive is not a tool to come up with causes. Instead, it identifies things that need to be acted upon. Rather than talk about causation, focus on paraphrasing and clarifying. Paraphrasing is restating a message very clearly in a different form, using different words. A paraphrase helps you to (1) find out if you really have understood an answer; (2) clarify what was said, sometimes making things clearer; and (3) demonstrate empathy. For example, you ask the questions about health, and the person you are talking to gives a long description. You paraphrase by saying “Ok, it sounds like . . . is that right? Would you say that is something that you feel needs to be watched, or is help needed?”

REDIRECT THE CONVERSATION TO PARENTS’/CAREGIVERS’ OWN FEELINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Often, people will make comments about other people’s observations such as “Well, my mother thinks that his behavior is really obnoxious.” It is important to redirect people to talk about their observations: “So your mother feels that when he does x that is obnoxious. What do YOU think?” The CANS Comprehensive is a tool to organize all points of observation, but the parent or caregiver’s perspective can be the most critical. Once you have their perspective, you can then work on organizing and coalescing the other points of view.

ACKNOWLEDGE FEELINGS

People will be talking about difficult things and it is important to acknowledge that. Simple acknowledgement such as “I hear you saying that it can be difficult when ...” demonstrates empathy.

WRAPPING IT UP

At the end of the assessment, we recommend the use of two open-ended questions. These questions ask if there are any past experiences that people want to share that might be of benefit to planning for their young person, and

if there is anything that they would like to add. This is a good time to see if there is anything “left over”—feelings or thoughts that they would like to share with you.

Take time to summarize with the individual and family those areas of strengths and of needs. Help them to get a “total picture” of the individual and family, and offer them the opportunity to change any ratings.

Take a few minutes to talk about what the next steps will be. Now you have information organized into a framework that moves into the next stage—planning.

So you might close with a statement such as: “OK, now the next step is a “brainstorm” where we take this information that we’ve organized and start writing a plan—it is now much clearer which needs must be met and what we can build on. So let’s start. . .”

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CANS BASIC STRUCTURE

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths basic core items are noted below.

CORE ITEMS

Life Functioning Domain

Family Functioning
Living Situation
Social Functioning
Recreational
*Developmental/Intellectual**
Job Functioning
Legal
Medical/Physical
Sexual Development
Sleep
School Behavior
School Attendance
School Achievement
Decision Making

Strengths Domain

Family Strengths
Interpersonal
Optimism
Educational Setting
Vocational
Talents and Interests
Spiritual/Religious
Community Life
Relationship Permanence
Resilience
Resourcefulness
Cultural Identity
Natural Supports

Cultural Factors Domain

Language
Traditions and Rituals
Cultural Stress

Caregiver Resources & Needs

Supervision
Involvement with Care
Knowledge
Organization
Social Resources
Residential Stability
Medical/Physical
Mental Health
Substance Use
Developmental
Safety

Behavioral/Emotional Needs Domain

Psychosis
Impulsivity/Hyperactivity
Depression
Anxiety
Oppositional
Conduct
*Adjustment to Trauma**
Attachment Difficulties
Anger Control
*Substance Use**

Risk Behaviors Domain

Suicide Risk
Non-Suicidal Self-Injurious Behavior
Other Self-Harm (Recklessness)
*Danger to Others**
*Sexual Aggression**
*Runaway**
*Delinquent Behavior**
*Fire Setting**
Intentional Misbehavior

A rating of '1', '2', or '3' on these items trigger the completion of specific Individualized Assessment Modules

LIFE FUNCTIONING DOMAIN

Life domains are the different arenas of social interaction found in the lives of children, youth, and their families. This domain rates how they are functioning in the individual, family, peer, school, and community realms. This section is rated using the needs scale and therefore will highlight any struggles the individual and family are experiencing.

Question to Consider for this Domain: How is the child/youth functioning in individual, family, peer, school, and community realms?

For the **Life Functioning Domain**, use the following categories and action levels:

- 0 No evidence of any needs; no need for action.
- 1 Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.
- 2 Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.
- 3 Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.

FAMILY FUNCTIONING

This item rates the child/youth's relationships with those who are in their family. It is recommended that the description of family should come from the child/youth's perspective (i.e. who the child/youth describes as their family). In the absence of this information, consider biological and adoptive relatives and their significant others with whom the child/youth is still in contact. Foster families should only be considered if they have made a significant commitment to the child/youth. For children/youth involved with child welfare, family refers to the person(s) fulfilling the permanency plan. When rating this item, take into account the relationship the child/youth has with their family as well as the relationship of the family as a whole.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there conflict in the family relationship that requires resolution? Is treatment required to restore or develop positive relationship in the family? 	<p>0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of problems in relationships with family members, and/or child/youth is doing well in relationships with family members.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History or suspicion of problems. Child/youth might be doing adequately in relationships with family members, although some problems may exist. For example, some family members may have problems in their relationships with child/youth. Arguing may be common but does not result in major problems.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth is having problems with parents, siblings and/or other family members that are impacting the child/youth's functioning. Frequent arguing, difficulty maintaining positive relationships may be observed.</p>
	<p>3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is having severe problems with parents, siblings, and/or other family members. This would include problems of domestic violence, absence of any positive relationships, etc.</p>

LIVING SITUATION

This item refers to how the child/youth is functioning in the child/youth's current living arrangement, which could be with a relative, in a foster home, etc. This item should exclude respite, brief detention/jail, and brief medical and psychiatric hospitalization.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">How has the child/youth been behaving and getting along with others in the current living situation?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of problem with functioning in current living environment. Child/youth and caregivers feel comfortable dealing with issues that come up in day-to-day life.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth experiences mild problems with functioning in current living situation. Caregivers express some concern about child/youth's behavior in living situation, and/or child/youth and caregiver have some difficulty dealing with issues that arise in daily life.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth has moderate to severe problems with functioning in current living situation. Child/youth's difficulties in maintaining appropriate behavior in this setting are creating significant problems for others in the residence. Child/youth and caregivers have difficulty interacting effectively with each other much of the time.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth has profound problems with functioning in current living situation. Child/youth is at immediate risk of being unable to remain in present living situation due to problematic behaviors.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONING

This item rates social skills and relationships. It includes age appropriate behavior and the ability to make and sustain relationships. Social functioning is different from Interpersonal (Strengths) in that functioning is a description of how the child/youth is doing currently. Strengths are longer-term assets.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the child/youth pleasant and likeable?Do same age peers like the child/youth?Do you feel that the child/youth can act appropriately in social settings?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of problems and/or child/youth has developmentally appropriate social functioning.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> There is a history or suspicion of problems in social relationships. Child/youth is having some difficulty interacting with others and building and/or maintaining relationships.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth is having some problems with social relationships that interfere with functioning in other life domains.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is experiencing significant disruptions in social relationships. Child/youth may have no friends or have constant conflict in relations with others, or have maladaptive relationships with others. The quality of the child/youth's social relationships presents imminent danger to the child/youth's safety, health, and/or development.

RECREATIONAL

This item rates the child/youth's access to and use of leisure activities.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth have things that they like to do with free time?Do these activities give the child/youth pleasure?Are they a positive use of the child/youth's free time?Does the child/youth often claim to be bored or have nothing to do?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of any problems with recreational functioning. Child/youth has access to sufficient activities that the child/youth enjoys.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth is doing adequately with recreational activities although some problems may exist.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth is having moderate problems with recreational activities. Child/youth may experience some problems with effective use of leisure time.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth has no access to or interest in recreational activities. Child/youth has significant difficulties making use of leisure time.

DEVELOPMENTAL/INTELLECTUAL*

This item describes the child/youth's development as compared to standard developmental milestones, as well as rates the presence of any developmental (motor, social and speech) or intellectual disabilities. It includes Intellectual Developmental Disorder (IDD) and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Rate the item depending on the significance of the disability and the related level of impairment in personal, social, family, school, or occupational functioning.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the child/youth's growth and development seem healthy? Has the child/youth reached appropriate developmental milestones (such as walking, talking)? Has anyone ever mentioned that the child/youth may have developmental problems? Has the child/youth developed like other same age peers? 	<p>0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of developmental delay and/or child/youth has no developmental problems or intellectual disability.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> There are concerns about possible developmental delay. Child/youth may have low IQ, a documented delay, or documented borderline intellectual disability (i.e. FSIQ 70-85). Mild deficits in adaptive functioning are indicated.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth has mild developmental delays (e.g., deficits in social functioning, inflexibility of behavior causing functional problems in one or more settings) and/or mild to moderate Intellectual Disability/Intellectual Disability Disorder. (If available, FSIQ 55-69.) IDD impacts communication, social functioning, daily living skills, judgment, and/or risk of manipulation by others.</p>
	<p>3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth has severe to profound intellectual disability (FSIQ, if available, less than 55) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder with marked to profound deficits in adaptive functioning in one or more areas: communication, social participation and independent living across multiple environments.</p>

***A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [A] Developmental Needs Module.**

[A] DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS MODULE

COGNITIVE

This item rates the child/youth's IQ and cognitive functioning.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the child/youth been tested for or diagnosed with a learning disability? Does the child/youth have an intellectual disability or delay? 	<p>0 Child/youth's intellectual functioning appears to be in normal range. There is no reason to believe that the child/youth has any problems with intellectual functioning.</p>
	<p>1 Child/youth has low IQ (70 to 85) or has identified learning challenges.</p>
	<p>2 Child/youth has mild intellectual disability. IQ is between 55 and 70.</p>
	<p>3 Child/youth has moderate to profound intellectual disability. IQ is less than 55.</p>

COMMUNICATION

This item rates the child/youth's ability to communicate with others via expression and reception.

Questions to Consider

- Do others understand the child/youth when they are trying to communicate? Does the child/youth understand others who are trying to communicate with them?
- Has the child/youth ever been diagnosed with a communication disorder?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth's receptive and expressive communication appears developmentally appropriate. There is no reason to believe that the child/youth has any problems communicating.
- 1 Child/youth has receptive communication skills but limited expressive communication skills.
- 2 Child/youth has both limited receptive and expressive communication skills.
- 3 Child/youth is unable to communicate.

DEVELOPMENTAL

This item rates the level of developmental delay/disorders that are present.

Questions to Consider

- Is the child/youth progressing developmentally in a way similar to peers of the same age?
- Has the child/youth been diagnosed with a developmental disorder?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth's development appears within normal range. There is no reason to believe that the child/youth has any developmental problems.
- 1 Evidence of a mild developmental delay.
- 2 Evidence of a pervasive developmental disorder including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Tourette's, Down's Syndrome or other significant developmental delay.
- 3 Severe developmental disorder.

SELF-CARE/DAILY LIVING SKILLS

This item aims to describe the child/youth's ability and motivation to engage in developmentally appropriate self-care tasks such as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, and other such tasks related to keeping up with one's personal hygiene.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth show age appropriate self-care skills?
- Is the child/youth able to groom themselves?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth's self-care and daily living skills appear developmentally appropriate. There is no reason to believe that the child/youth has any problems performing daily living skills.
- 1 Child/youth requires verbal prompting on self-care tasks or daily living skills.
- 2 Child/youth requires assistance (physical prompting) on self-care tasks or attendant care on one self-care task (e.g. eating, bathing, dressing, and toileting).
- 3 Child/youth requires attendant care on more than one of the self-care tasks (e.g., eating, bathing, dressing, toileting).

End of Developmental Needs Module

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#) [\[Return to Core Item List\]](#)

JOB FUNCTIONING

If the youth is working, this item describes their functioning in a job setting.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the youth able to meet expectations at work?Does the youth have regular conflict at work?Is the youth timely and able to complete responsibilities?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of any problems in work environment. Youth is excelling in a job environment.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Youth has some mild problems at work (e.g., tardiness, conflict). Youth is functioning adequately in a job environment.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Youth has moderate problems at work. Youth has problems with development of vocational or prevocational skills.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Youth has severe problems at work in terms of attendance, performance or relationships. Youth may have recently lost a job.
	NA Not applicable. Child/youth is not currently working nor recently employed.

LEGAL

This item indicates the child/youth's level of involvement with the juvenile justice system. Family involvement with the courts is not rated here—only the identified individual's involvement is relevant to this rating.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Has the child/youth ever admitted to breaking the law?Has the child/youth ever been arrested?Has the child/youth ever been in detention?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> Child/youth has no known legal difficulties or involvement with the court system.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth has a history of legal problems (e.g., status offenses such as juvenile/family conflict, in-county runaway, truancy, petty offenses) but currently is not involved with the legal system; or immediate risk of involvement with the legal system.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth has some legal problems and is currently involved in the legal system due to moderate delinquent behaviors (misdemeanors such as offenses against persons or property, drug-related offenses, underage drinking).
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth has serious current or pending legal difficulties that place them at risk for a court ordered out of home placement, or incarceration (ages 18 to 21) such as serious offenses against person or property (e.g., robbery, aggravated assault, possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, 1st or 2nd degree offenses).

MEDICAL/PHYSICAL

This item describes both health problems and chronic/acute physical conditions or impediments.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the child/youth have anything that limits their physical activities?• How much does this interfere with the child/youth's life?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence that the child/youth has any medical or physical problems, and/or they are healthy.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth has mild, transient or well-managed physical or medical problems. These include well-managed chronic conditions like juvenile diabetes or asthma.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth has <i>serious</i> medical or physical problems that require medical treatment or intervention. Or child/youth has a <i>chronic</i> illness or a physical challenge that requires <i>ongoing</i> medical intervention.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth has <i>life-threatening</i> illness or medical/physical condition. Immediate and/or intense action should be taken due to imminent danger to child/youth's safety, health, and/or development.

SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

This item looks at broad issues of sexual development including developmentally inappropriate sexual behavior or sexual concerns, and the reactions of others to any of these factors. The child/youth's sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) could be rated here only if they are leading to difficulties. Sexually abusive behaviors are rated elsewhere.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there concerns about the child/youth's healthy sexual development?• Is the child/youth sexually active?• Does the child/youth have less/more interest in sex than other same age peers?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of issues with sexual development.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History or suspicion of problems with sexual development, but does not interfere with functioning in other life domains. May include the child/youth's concerns about sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), or anxiety about the reaction of others.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Moderate to serious problems with sexual development that interfere with the child/youth's life functioning in other life domains.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Severe problems with sexual development. This would include very frequent risky sexual behavior or victim of sexual exploitation.

SLEEP

This item rates the child/youth's sleep patterns. This item is used to describe any problems with sleep, regardless of the cause including difficulties falling asleep or staying asleep as well as sleeping too much. Both bedwetting and nightmares should be considered sleep issues.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth appear rested?Is the child/youth often sleepy during the day?Does the child/youth have frequent nightmares or difficulty sleeping?How many hours does the child/youth sleep each night?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> Child/youth gets a full night's sleep each night and feels rested.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth has some problems sleeping. Generally, child/youth gets a full night's sleep but at least once a week problems arise. This may include occasionally awakening or bed wetting or having nightmares. Sleep is not restful for the child/youth.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth is having problems with sleep. Sleep is often disrupted and child/youth seldom obtains a full night of sleep and doesn't feel rested. Difficulties in sleep are interfering with their functioning in at least one area of their life.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is generally sleep deprived. Sleeping is almost always difficult and the child/youth is not able to get a full night's sleep and does not feel rested. Child/youth's sleep deprivation is dangerous and places them at risk.

SCHOOL BEHAVIOR

This item rates the behavior of the child/youth in school or school-like settings.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">How is the child/youth behaving in school?Has the child/youth had any detentions or suspensions?Has the child/youth needed to go to an alternative placement?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of behavioral problems at school, OR child/youth is behaving well in school.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth is behaving adequately in school although some behavior problems exist. Behavior problems may be related to relationship with either teachers or peers.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth's behavior problems are interfering with functioning at school. The child/youth is disruptive and may have received sanctions including suspensions.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is having severe problems with behavior in school. The child/youth is frequently or severely disruptive. School placement may be in jeopardy due to behavior.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

This item rates issues of attendance. If school is not in session, rate the last 30 days when school was in session.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth have any difficulty attending school?Is the child/youth on time to school?How many times a week is the child/youth absent?Once the child/youth arrives at school, does the child/youth stay for the rest of the day?	<p>0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> Child/youth attends school regularly.</p> <hr/> <p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth has a history of attendance problems, OR child/youth has some attendance problems but generally goes to school.</p> <hr/> <p>2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth's problems with school attendance are interfering with academic progress.</p> <hr/> <p>3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is generally absent from school.</p>

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

This item rates the child/youth's grades or level of academic achievement.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">How are the child/youth's grades?Is the child/youth having difficulty with any subjects?Is the child/youth at risk for failing any classes or repeating a grade?	<p>0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of issues in school achievement and/or child/youth is doing well in school.</p> <hr/> <p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth is doing adequately in school although some problems with achievement exist.</p> <hr/> <p>2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth is having moderate problems with school achievement. The child/youth may be failing some subjects.</p> <hr/> <p>3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is having severe achievement problems. The child/youth may be failing most subjects or has been retained (held back) a grade level. Child/youth might be more than one year behind same-age peers in school achievement.</p>

DECISION MAKING

This item describes the child/youth's age-appropriate decision making process and understanding of choices and consequences.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the child/youth's judgment and ability to make good decisions?• Does the child/youth typically make good choices for themselves?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of problems with judgment or decision making that result in harm to development and/or well-being.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> There is a history or suspicion of problems with judgment in which the child/youth makes decisions that are in some way harmful to their development and/or well-being.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Problems with judgment in which the child/youth makes decisions that are in some way harmful to their development and/or well-being. As a result, more supervision is required than expected for their age.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth makes decisions that would likely result in significant physical harm to self or others. Therefore, child/youth requires intense and constant supervision, over and above that expected for child/youth's age.

STRENGTHS DOMAIN

This domain describes the assets of the child/youth that can be used to advance healthy development. It is important to remember that strengths are NOT the opposite of needs. Increasing a child/youth's strengths while also addressing their behavioral/emotional needs leads to better functioning, and better outcomes, than does focusing just on their needs. Identifying areas where strengths can be built is a significant element of service planning. In these items the 'best' assets and resources available to the child/youth are rated based on how accessible and useful those strengths are. These are the only items that use the Strength Rating Scale with action levels.

Question to Consider for this Domain: What child/youth strengths can be used to support a need?

For the **Strengths Domain**, the following categories and action levels are used:

- 0 Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.
- 1 Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.
- 2 Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.
- 3 An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.

FAMILY STRENGTHS

This item refers to the presence of a sense of family identity as well as love and communication among family members. Even families who are struggling often have a firm foundation that consists of a positive sense of family and strong underlying love and commitment to each other. These are the constructs this strength is intended to identify. As with Family Functioning, the definition of family comes from the child/youth's perspective (i.e., who the child/youth describes as their family). If this information is not known, then we recommend a definition of family that includes biological/adoptive relatives and their significant others with whom the child/youth is still in contact.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth have good relationships with any family member?
- Is there potential to develop positive family relationships?
- Is there a family member that the child/youth can go to in time of need for support? That can advocate for the child/youth?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 *Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.*
Family has strong relationships and significant family strengths. This level indicates a family with much love and respect for one another. There is at least one family member who has a strong loving relationship with the child/youth and is able to provide significant emotional or concrete support. Child/youth is fully included in family activities.
- 1 *Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.*
Family has some good relationships and good communication. Family members are able to enjoy each other's company. There is at least one family member who has a strong, loving relationship with the child/youth and is able to provide limited emotional or concrete support. [continues]

FAMILY STRENGTHS continued

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | <p><i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i></p> <p>Family needs some assistance in developing relationships and/or communications. Family members are known, but currently none are able to provide emotional or concrete support.</p> |
| 3 | <p><i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i></p> <p>Family needs significant assistance in developing relationships and communications, or child/youth has no identified family. Child/youth is not included in normal family activities.</p> |

INTERPERSONAL

This item is used to identify a child/youth's social and relationship skills. Interpersonal skills are rated independently of Social Functioning because a child/youth can have social skills but still struggle in their relationships at a particular point in time. This strength indicates an ability to make and maintain long-standing relationships.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the child/youth have the trait ability to make friends? Do you feel that the child/youth is pleasant and likable? Do adults or same age peers like the child/youth? 	<p>0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.</i></p> <p>Significant interpersonal strengths. Child/youth has well-developed interpersonal skills and healthy friendships.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i></p> <p>Child/youth has good interpersonal skills and has shown the ability to develop healthy friendships.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i></p> <p>Child/youth requires strength building to learn to develop good interpersonal skills and/or healthy friendships. Child/youth has some social skills that facilitate positive relationships with peers and adults but may not have any current healthy friendships.</p>
	<p>3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i></p> <p>There is no evidence of observable interpersonal skills or healthy friendships at this time and/or child/youth requires significant help to learn to develop interpersonal skills and healthy friendships.</p>

OPTIMISM

This item should be rated based on the child/youth's sense of self in their own future. This rates the child/youth's future orientation.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth have a generally positive outlook on things; have things to look forward to?How does the child/youth see themselves in the future?Is the child/youth forward looking/ sees themselves as likely to be successful?	0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.</i> Child/youth has a strong and stable optimistic outlook for their future.
	1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> Child/youth is generally optimistic about their future.
	2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> Child/youth has difficulty maintaining a positive view of themselves and their life. Child/youth's outlook may vary from overly optimistic to overly pessimistic.
	3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> There is no evidence of optimism at this time and/or child/youth has difficulties seeing positive aspects about themselves or their future.

EDUCATIONAL SETTING

This item is used to evaluate the nature of the school's relationship with the child/youth and family, as well as the level of support the child/youth receives from the school. Rate according to how much the school is an effective partner in promoting the child/youth's functioning and addressing the child/youth's needs in school.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the school an active partner in the child/youth's education?Does the child/youth like school?Has there been at least one year in which the child/youth did well in school?When has the child/youth been at their best in school?	0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.</i> The school works closely with the child/youth and family to identify and successfully address the child/youth's educational needs OR the child/youth excels in school.
	1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> School works with the child/youth and family to address the child/youth's educational needs OR the child/youth likes school.
	2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> The school is currently unable to adequately address the child/youth's academic or behavioral needs.
	3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> There is no evidence of the school working to identify or successfully address the child/youth's needs at this time and/or the school is unable and/or unwilling to work to identify and address the child/youth's needs and/or there is no school to partner with at this time.
	NA Child/youth is not in school due to age: child is either very young or has already graduated.

VOCATIONAL

This item is used to refer to the strengths of the school/vocational environment and may or may not reflect any specific educational/work skills possessed by the youth.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the youth know what the youth wants to ‘be when they grow up?’• Has the youth ever worked or is the youth developing prevocational skills?• Does the youth have plans to go to college or vocational school, for a career?	<p>0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.</i></p> <p>Youth is employed and is involved with a work environment that appears to exceed expectations. Job is consistent with developmentally appropriate career aspirations.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i></p> <p>Youth is working; however, the job is not consistent with developmentally appropriate career aspirations.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i></p> <p>Youth is temporarily unemployed. A history of consistent employment should be demonstrated and the potential for future employment without the need for vocational rehabilitation should be evidenced. This also may indicate a youth with a clear vocational preference.</p>
	<p>3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i></p> <p>Youth is unemployed and has no clear vocational aspirations or a plan to achieve these aspirations. This level indicates a youth with no known or identifiable vocational skill and no expression of any future vocational preferences</p>

TALENTS AND INTERESTS

This item refers to hobbies, skills, artistic interests, and talents that are positive ways that young people can spend their time, and also give them pleasure and a positive sense of self.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does the child/youth do with free time?• What does the child/youth enjoy doing?• Is the child/youth engaged in any pro-social activities?• What are the things that the child/youth does particularly well?	<p>0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/action plan.</i></p> <p>Child/youth has a talent that provides pleasure and/or self-esteem. A child/youth with significant creative/artistic/athletic strengths would be rated here.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i></p> <p>Child/youth has a talent, interest, or hobby that has the potential to provide pleasure and self-esteem. This level indicates a child/youth with a notable talent. For example, a child/youth who is involved in athletics or plays a musical instrument would be rated here.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i></p> <p>Child/youth has expressed interest in developing a specific talent, interest or hobby even if that talent has not been developed to date, or whether it would provide them with any benefit.</p>
	<p>3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i></p> <p>There is no evidence of identified talents, interests or hobbies at this time and/or child/youth requires significant assistance to identify and develop talents and interests.</p>

SPIRITUAL/RELIGIOUS

This item refers to the child/youth's experience of receiving comfort and support from religious or spiritual involvement. This item rates the presence of beliefs that could be useful to the child/youth; however, an absence of spiritual/religious beliefs does not represent a need for the family.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the child/youth have spiritual beliefs that provide comfort?• Is the family involved with any religious community? Is the child/youth involved?• Is child/youth interested in exploring spirituality?	<p>0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/action plan.</i> Child/youth is involved in and receives comfort and support from spiritual and/or religious beliefs, practices and/or community. Child/youth may be very involved in a religious community or may have strongly held spiritual or religious beliefs that can sustain or comfort the child/youth in difficult times.</p> <hr/> <p>1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> Child/youth is involved in and receives some comfort and/or support from spiritual and/or religious beliefs, practices and/or community.</p> <hr/> <p>2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> Child/youth has expressed some interest in spiritual or religious belief and practices.</p> <hr/> <p>3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> There is no evidence of identified spiritual or religious beliefs, nor does the child/youth show any interest in these pursuits at this time.</p>

COMMUNITY LIFE

This item reflects the child/youth's connection to people, places or institutions in their community. This connection is measured by the degree to which the child/youth is involved with institutions of that community which might include (but are not limited to) community centers, little league teams, jobs, after-school activities, religious groups, etc. Connections through specific people (e.g., friends and family) could be considered an important community connection, if many people who are important to the child/youth live in the same neighborhood.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the child/youth feel like they are part of a community?• Are there activities that the child/youth does in the community?	<p>0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/action plan.</i></p>
	<p>Child/youth is well integrated into their community. The child/youth is a member of community organizations and has positive ties to the community. For example, individual may be a member of a community group (e.g. Girl or Boy Scouts) for more than one year, may be widely accepted by neighbors, or involved in other community activities, informal networks, etc.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i></p>
	<p>Child/youth is somewhat involved with their community. This level can also indicate a child/youth with significant community ties although they may be relatively short term.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i></p> <p>Child/youth has an identified community but has only limited, or unhealthy, ties to that community.</p> <p>3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i></p> <p>There is no evidence of an identified community of which child/youth is a member at this time.</p>

RELATIONSHIP PERMANENCE

This item refers to the stability of significant relationships in the child/youth's life. This likely includes family members but may also include other individuals.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth have relationships with adults that have lasted their lifetime?Is the child/youth in contact with both parents?Are there relatives in the child/youth's life with whom the child/youth has had long-lasting relationships?	0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.</i> Child/youth has very stable relationships. Family members, friends, and community have been stable for most of the child/youth's life and are likely to remain so in the foreseeable future. Child/youth is involved with both parents.
	1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> Child/youth has had stable relationships but there is some concern about instability in the near future (one year) due to transitions, illness, or age. A stable relationship with only one parent may be rated here.
	2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> Child/youth has had at least one stable relationship over the child/youth's lifetime but has experienced other instability through factors such as divorce, moving, removal from home, and death.
	3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> Child/youth does not have any stability in relationships. Independent living or adoption must be considered.

RESILIENCE

This item refers to the child/youth's ability to recognize their internal strengths and use them in managing daily life.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">What does the child/youth do well?Is the child/youth able to recognize their skills as strengths?Is the child/youth able to use their strengths to problem solve and address difficulties or challenges?	0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.</i> Child/youth is able to both identify and use strengths to better themselves and successfully manage difficult challenges.
	1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> Child/youth is able to identify most of their strengths and is able to partially utilize them.
	2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> Child/youth is able to identify strengths but is not able to utilize them effectively.
	3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> Child/youth is not yet able to identify personal strengths.

RESOURCEFULNESS

This item refers to the child/youth's ability to identify and use external/environmental strengths in managing daily life.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth have external or environmental strengths?Does the child/youth use their external or environmental strengths to aid in their well-being?	0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/action plan.</i> Child/youth is quite skilled at finding the necessary resources required to aid them in managing challenges.
	1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> Child/youth has some skills at finding necessary resources required to aid them in a healthy lifestyle but sometimes requires assistance at identifying or accessing these resources.
	2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> Child/youth has limited skills at finding necessary resources required to aid in achieving a healthy lifestyle and requires temporary assistance both with identifying and accessing these resources.
	3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> Child/youth has no skills at finding the necessary resources to aid in achieving a healthy lifestyle and requires ongoing assistance with both identifying and accessing these resources.

CULTURAL IDENTITY

Cultural identity refers to the child/youth's view of self as belonging to a specific cultural group. This cultural group may be defined by a number of factors including race, religion, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE).

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth identify with any racial/ethnic/cultural group?Does the child/youth find this group a source of support?	0 <i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/action plan.</i> The child/youth has defined a cultural identity and is connected to others who support the child/youth's cultural identity.
	1 <i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> The child/youth is developing a cultural identity and is seeking others to support the child/youth's cultural identity.
	2 <i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> The child/youth is searching for a cultural identity and has not connected with others.
	3 <i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> The child/youth does not express a cultural identity.

NATURAL SUPPORTS

This item refers to unpaid helpers in the child/youth's natural environment. These include individuals who provide social support to the target child/youth and family. All family members and paid caregivers are excluded.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions	
	0	<i>Well-developed, centerpiece strength; may be used as a centerpiece in an intervention/ action plan.</i> Child/youth has significant natural supports that contribute to helping support the child/youth's healthy development.
	1	<i>Identified and useful strength. Strength will be used, maintained or built upon as part of the plan. May require some effort to develop strength into a centerpiece strength.</i> Child/youth has identified natural supports that provide some assistance in supporting the child/youth's healthy development.
	2	<i>Strengths have been identified but require strength-building efforts before they can be effectively utilized as part of a plan. Identified but not useful.</i> Child/youth has some identified natural supports, however, these supports are not actively contributing to the child/youth's healthy development.
	3	<i>An area in which no current strength is identified; efforts may be recommended to develop a strength in this area.</i> Child/youth has no known natural supports (outside of family and paid caregivers).

CULTURAL FACTORS DOMAIN

These items identify linguistic or cultural issues for which service providers need to make accommodations (e.g., provide interpreter, finding therapist who speaks family's primary language, and/or ensure that a child/youth in placement has the opportunity to participate in cultural rituals associated with their cultural identity). Items in the Cultural Factors Domain describe difficulties that children and youth may experience or encounter as a result of their membership in any cultural group, and/or because of the relationship between members of that group and members of the dominant society.

Health care disparities are differences in health care quality, affordability, access, utilization and outcomes between groups. Culture in this domain is described broadly to include cultural groups that are racial, ethnic or religious, or are based on age, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status and/or geography. Literature exploring issues of health care disparity states that race and/or ethnic group membership may be a primary influence on health outcomes.

It is important to remember when using the CANS that the family should be defined from the individual child/youth's perspective (i.e., who the individual describes as part of their family). The cultural issues in this domain should be considered in relation to the impact they are having on the life of the individual when rating these items and creating a treatment or service plan.

Question to Consider for this Domain: How does the child/youth's membership in a particular cultural group impact their stress and well-being?

For the **Cultural Factors Domain**, use the following categories and action levels:

- 0 No evidence of any needs; no need for action.
- 1 Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.
- 2 Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.
- 3 Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.

LANGUAGE

This item looks at whether the child/youth and family need help with communication to obtain the necessary resources, supports and accommodations (e.g., interpreter). This item includes spoken, written, and sign language, as well as issues of literacy.

Questions to Consider

- What language does the family speak at home?
- Is there a child/youth interpreting for the family in situations that may compromise the child/youth or family's care?
-

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 *No evidence of any needs; no need for action.*
No evidence that there is a need or preference for an interpreter and/or the child/youth and family speak and read the primary language where the child/youth or family lives.
- 1 *Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.*
Child/youth and/or family speak or read the primary language where the child/youth or family lives, but potential communication problems exist because of limited vocabulary or comprehension of the nuances of the language. [continues]

LANGUAGE continued

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth or significant family members have any special needs related to communication (e.g., ESL, ASL, Braille, or assisted technology)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i>
Child/youth and/or significant family members do not speak the primary language where the child/youth or family lives. Translator or family's native language speaker is needed for successful intervention; a qualified individual(s) can be identified within natural supports. |
| 3 | <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i>
Child/youth and/or significant family members do not speak the primary language where the child/youth or family lives. Translator or family's native language speaker is needed for successful intervention; no such individual is available from among natural supports. |

TRADITIONS AND RITUALS

This item rates the child/youth and family's access to and participation in cultural traditions, rituals and practices, including the celebration of culturally specific holidays such as Kwanza, Dia de los Muertos, Yom Kippur, Quinceanera, etc. This also may include daily activities that are culturally specific (e.g., wearing a hijab, praying toward Mecca at specific times, eating a specific diet, access to media), and traditions and activities to include newer cultural identities.

Questions to Consider

- What holidays does the child/youth celebrate?
- What traditions are important to the child/youth?
- Does the child/youth fear discrimination for practicing the child/youth's traditions and rituals?

Ratings and Descriptions

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i>
Child/youth and/or family consistently practice their chosen traditions and rituals consistent with their cultural identity. |
| 1 | <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i>
Child/youth and/or family generally practice their chosen traditions and rituals consistent with their cultural identity; however, they sometimes experience some obstacles to the performance of these practices. |
| 2 | <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i>
Child/youth and/or family experience significant barriers and are sometimes prevented from practicing their chosen traditions and rituals consistent with their cultural identity. |
| 3 | <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i>
Child/youth and/or family are unable to practice their chosen traditions and rituals consistent with their cultural identity. |

CULTURAL STRESS

This item identifies circumstances in which the child/youth's cultural identity is met with hostility or other problems within the child/youth's environment due to differences in attitudes, behavior, or beliefs of others (this includes cultural differences that are causing stress between the child/youth and their family). Racism, negativity toward sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) and other forms of discrimination would be rated here.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does the family believe is their reality of discrimination? How do they describe discrimination or oppression?• Does this impact their functioning as both individuals and as a family?• How does the caregiver support the child/youth's identity and experiences if different from the caregiver's own?	<p>0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i></p> <p>No evidence of stress between the child/youth's cultural identity and current environment or living situation.</p> <hr/> <p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i></p> <p>Some mild or occasional stress resulting from friction between the child/youth's cultural identity and current environment or living situation.</p> <hr/> <p>2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i></p> <p>Child/youth is experiencing cultural stress that is causing problems of functioning in at least one life domain. Child/youth needs support to learn how to manage culture stress.</p> <hr/> <p>3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i></p> <p>Child/youth is experiencing a high level of cultural stress that is making functioning in any life domain difficult under the present circumstances. Child/youth needs immediate plan to reduce culture stress.</p>

CAREGIVER RESOURCES & NEEDS DOMAIN

This section focuses on the strengths and needs of the caregiver. Caregiver ratings should be completed by household. If multiple households are involved in the planning, then this section should be completed once for each household under consideration. If the child/youth is in a foster care or out-of-home placement, please rate the identified parent(s), other relative(s), adoptive parent(s), or caretaker(s) who is planning to assume custody and/or take responsibility for the care of this child/youth.

Question to Consider for this Domain: What are the resources and needs of the child/youth's caregiver(s)?

For the **Caregiver Resources & Needs Domain**, use the following categories and action levels:

- 0 No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.
- 1 Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.
- 2 Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.
- 3 Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.

SUPERVISION

This item rates the caregiver's capacity to provide the level of monitoring and discipline needed by the child/youth. Discipline is defined in the broadest sense, and includes all of the things that parents/caregivers can do to promote positive behavior with their child/youth.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the caregiver feel about their ability to keep an eye on and discipline the child/youth? Does the caregiver need some help with these issues? 	<p>0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i></p> <p>No evidence caregiver needs help or assistance in monitoring or disciplining the child/youth, and/or caregiver has good monitoring and discipline skills.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i></p> <p>Caregiver generally provides adequate supervision, but is inconsistent. Caregiver may need occasional help or assistance.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i></p> <p>Caregiver supervision and monitoring are very inconsistent and frequently absent. Caregiver needs assistance to improve supervision skills.</p>
	<p>3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i></p> <p>Caregiver is unable to monitor or discipline the child/youth. Caregiver requires immediate and continuing assistance. Child/youth is at risk of harm due to absence of supervision or monitoring.</p>

INVOLVEMENT WITH CARE

This item rates the caregiver's participation in the child/youth's care and ability to advocate for the child/youth.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How involved are the caregivers in services for the child/youth?• Is the caregiver an advocate for the child/youth?• Would the caregiver like any help to become more involved?	<p>0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i></p> <p>No evidence of problems with caregiver involvement in services or interventions for the child/youth, and/or caregiver is able to act as an effective advocate for child/youth.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i></p> <p>Caregiver is consistently involved in the planning and/or implementation of services for the child/youth but is not an active or fully effective advocate on behalf of the child/youth. Caregiver is open to receiving support, education, and information.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i></p> <p>Caregiver does not actively involve themselves in services and/or interventions intended to assist the child/youth.</p>
	<p>3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i></p> <p>Caregiver wishes for child/youth to be removed from their care.</p>

KNOWLEDGE

This item identifies the caregiver's knowledge of the child/youth's strengths and needs, and their ability to understand the rationale for the treatment or management of these problems.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the caregiver understand the child/youth's current mental health diagnosis and/or symptoms?• Does the caregiver's expectations of the child/youth reflect an understanding of the child/youth's mental or physical challenges?	<p>0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i></p> <p>No evidence of caregiver knowledge issues. Caregiver is fully knowledgeable about the child/youth's psychological strengths and weaknesses, talents and limitations.</p>
	<p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i></p> <p>Caregiver, while being generally knowledgeable about the child/youth, has some mild deficits in knowledge or understanding of the child/youth's psychological condition, talents, skills and assets.</p>
	<p>2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i></p> <p>Caregiver does not know or understand the child/youth well and significant deficits exist in the caregiver's ability to relate to the child/youth's problems and strengths.</p>
	<p>3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i></p> <p>Caregiver has little or no understanding of the child/youth's current condition. Caregiver's lack of knowledge about the child/youth's strengths and needs places the child/youth at risk of significant negative outcomes.</p>

ORGANIZATION

This item is used to rate the caregiver's ability to organize and manage their household within the context of intensive community services.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do caregivers need or want help with managing their home?Do they have difficulty getting to appointments or managing a schedule?Do they have difficulty getting their child/youth to appointments or school?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> Caregiver is well organized and efficient.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> Caregiver has minimal difficulties with organizing and maintaining household to support needed services. For example, may be forgetful about appointments or occasionally fails to return case manager calls.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Caregiver has moderate difficulty organizing and maintaining household to support needed services.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Caregiver is unable to organize household to support needed services.

SOCIAL RESOURCES

This item rates the social assets (e.g., extended family) and resources that the caregiver can bring to bear in addressing the multiple needs of the child/youth and family.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does family have extended family or friends who provide emotional support?Can they call on social supports to watch the child/youth occasionally?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> Caregiver has significant social and family networks that actively help with caregiving.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> Caregiver has some family, friends or social network that actively helps with caregiving.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Work needs to be done to engage family, friends or social network in helping with caregiving.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Caregiver has no family or social network to help with caregiving.

RESIDENTIAL STABILITY

This item rates the housing stability of the caregiver(s) and does not include the likelihood that the child or youth will be removed from the household.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the family's current housing situation stable?• Are there concerns that they might have to move in the near future?• Has family lost their housing?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> Caregiver has stable housing with no known risks of instability.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> Caregiver has relatively stable housing but either has moved in the recent past or there are indications of housing problems that might force housing disruption.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Caregiver has moved multiple times in the past year. Housing is unstable.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Family is homeless, or has experienced homelessness in the recent past.

MEDICAL/PHYSICAL

This item refers to medical and/or physical problems that the caregiver(s) may be experiencing that prevent or limit their ability to parent the child/youth. This item does not rate depression or other mental health issues.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the caregiver's health?• Does the caregiver have any health problems that limit their ability to care for the family?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> No evidence of medical or physical health problems. Caregiver is generally healthy.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> There is a history or suspicion of, and/or caregiver is in recovery from, medical/physical problems.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Caregiver has medical/physical problems that interfere with their capacity to parent the child/youth.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Caregiver has medical/physical problems that make parenting the child/youth impossible at this time.

MENTAL HEALTH

This item refers to any serious mental health issues (not including substance abuse) among caregivers that might limit their capacity for parenting/caregiving to the child/youth.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do caregivers have any mental health needs that make parenting difficult?Is there any evidence of transgenerational trauma that is impacting the caregiver's ability to give care effectively?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> No evidence of caregiver mental health difficulties.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> There is a history or suspicion of mental health difficulties, and/or caregiver is in recovery from mental health difficulties.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Caregiver's mental health difficulties interfere with their capacity to parent.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Caregiver has mental health difficulties that make it impossible to parent the child/youth at this time.

SUBSTANCE USE

This item rates the impact of any notable substance use by caregivers that might limit their capacity to provide care for the child/youth.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do caregivers have any substance use needs that make parenting difficult?Is the caregiver receiving any services for the substance use problems?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> No evidence of caregiver substance use issues.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> There is a history of, suspicion or mild use of substances and/or caregiver is in recovery from substance use difficulties where there is no interference in their ability to parent.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Caregiver has some substance abuse difficulties that interfere with their capacity to parent.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Caregiver has substance abuse difficulties that make it impossible to parent the child/youth at this time.

DEVELOPMENTAL

This item describes the presence of limited cognitive capacity or developmental disabilities that challenges the caregiver's ability to parent.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the caregiver have developmental challenges that make parenting/caring for the child/youth difficult?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> No evidence of caregiver developmental disabilities or challenges. Caregiver has no developmental needs.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> Caregiver has developmental challenges. The developmental challenges do not currently interfere with parenting.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Caregiver has developmental challenges that interfere with the capacity to parent the child/youth.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Caregiver has severe developmental challenges that make it impossible to parent the child/youth at this time.

SAFETY

This item describes the caregiver's ability to maintain the child/youth's safety within the household. It does not refer to the safety of other family or household members based on any danger presented by the assessed child/youth.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the caregiver able to protect the child/youth from harm in the home?Are there individuals living in the home or visiting the home that may be abusive to the child/youth?	0 <i>No current need; no need for action. This may be a resource for the child/youth.</i> No evidence of safety issues. Household is safe and secure. Child/youth is not at risk from others.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement. This may be an opportunity for resource building.</i> Household is safe but concerns exist about the safety of the child/youth due to history or others who might be abusive.
	2 <i>Need is interfering with the provision of care; action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.</i> Child/youth is in some danger from one or more individuals with access to the home.
	3 <i>Need prevents the provision of care; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is in immediate danger from one or more individuals with unsupervised access.

All referents are legally required to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS DOMAIN

This section identifies the behavioral health needs of the child/youth. While the CANS is not a diagnostic tool, it is designed to be consistent with diagnostic communication. In the DSM, a diagnosis is defined by a set of symptoms that is associated with either dysfunction or distress. This is consistent with the ratings of '2' or '3' as described by the action levels below.

Question to Consider for this Domain: What are the presenting social, emotional, and behavioral needs of the child/youth?

For the **Behavioral/Emotional Needs Domain**, use the following categories and action levels:

- 0 No evidence of any needs; no need for action.
- 1 Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.
- 2 Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.
- 3 Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.

PSYCHOSIS (THOUGHT DISORDER)

This item rates the symptoms of psychiatric disorders with a known neurological base, including schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders. The common symptoms of these disorders include hallucinations (i.e. experiencing things others do not experience), delusions (i.e. a false belief or an incorrect inference about reality that is firmly sustained despite the fact that nearly everybody thinks the belief is false or proof exists of its inaccuracy), disorganized thinking, and bizarre/idiosyncratic behavior.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth exhibit behaviors that are unusual or difficult to understand?
- Does the child/youth engage in certain actions repeatedly?
- Are the unusual behaviors or repeated actions interfering with the child/youth's functioning?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 *No evidence of any needs; no need for action.*
No evidence of psychotic symptoms. Both thought processes and content are within normal range.
- 1 *Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.*
Evidence of disruption in thought processes or content. Child/youth may be somewhat tangential in speech or evidence somewhat illogical thinking (age-inappropriate). This also includes a child/youth with a history of hallucinations but none currently. Use this category for children/youth who are below the threshold for one of the DSM diagnoses listed above.
- 2 *Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.*
Evidence of disturbance in thought process or content that may be impairing the child/youth's functioning in at least one life domain. Child/youth may be somewhat delusional or have brief intermittent hallucinations. Speech may be at times quite tangential or illogical. [continues]

PSYCHOSIS (THOUGHT DISORDER)

- 3 *Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.*
Clear evidence of dangerous hallucinations, delusions, or bizarre behavior that might be associated with some form of psychotic disorder that places the child/youth or others at risk of physical harm.

IMPULSIVITY/HYPERACTIVITY

Problems with impulse control and impulsive behaviors, including motoric disruptions, are rated here. This includes behavioral symptoms associated with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Impulse-Control Disorders as indicated in the DSM-5. Children/youth with impulse problems tend to engage in behavior without thinking, regardless of the consequences. This can include compulsions to engage in gambling, violent behavior (e.g., road rage), sexual behavior, fire-starting or stealing.

Questions to Consider

- Is the child/youth unable to sit still for any length of time?
- Does the child/youth have trouble paying attention for more than a few minutes?
- Is the child/youth able to control their behavior, talking?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 *No evidence of any needs; no need for action.*
No evidence of symptoms of loss of control of behavior.
- 1 *Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.*
There is a history or evidence of mild levels of impulsivity evident in action or thought that place the child/youth at risk of future functioning difficulties. The child/youth may exhibit limited impulse control, e.g., child/youth may yell out answers to questions or may have difficulty waiting one's turn. Some motor difficulties may be present as well, such as pushing or shoving others.
- 2 *Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.*
Clear evidence of problems with impulsive, distractible, or hyperactive behavior that interferes with the child/youth's functioning in at least one life domain. This indicates a child/youth with impulsive behavior who may represent a significant management problem for adults (e.g., caregivers, teachers, coaches, etc.). A child/youth who often intrudes on others and often exhibits aggressive impulses would be rated here.
- 3 *Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.*
Clear evidence of a dangerous level of hyperactivity and/or impulsive behavior that places the child/youth at risk of physical harm. This indicates a child/youth with frequent and significant levels of impulsive behavior that carries considerable safety risk (e.g., running into the street, dangerous driving or bike riding). The child/youth may be impulsive on a nearly continuous basis. The child/youth endangers self or others without thinking.

DEPRESSION

This item rates symptoms such as irritable or depressed mood, social withdrawal, sleep disturbances, weight/eating disturbances, and loss of motivation, interest or pleasure in daily activities. This item can be used to rate symptoms of the depressive disorders as specified in DSM-5.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is child/youth concerned about possible depression or chronic low mood and irritability?• Has the child/youth withdrawn from normal activities?• Does the child/youth seem lonely or not interested in others?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of problems with depression.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History or suspicion of depression or evidence of depression associated with a recent negative life event with minimal impact on life domain functioning. Brief duration of depression, irritability, or impairment of peer, family, or academic functioning that does not lead to pervasive avoidance behavior.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Clear evidence of depression associated with either depressed mood or significant irritability. Depression has interfered significantly in child/youth's ability to function in at least one life domain.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Clear evidence of disabling level of depression that makes it virtually impossible for the child/youth to function in any life domain. This rating is given to a child/youth with a severe level of depression. This would include a child/youth who stays at home or in bed all day due to depression or one whose emotional symptoms prevent any participation in school, friendship groups, or family life. Disabling forms of depressive diagnoses would be rated here.

ANXIETY

This item rates symptoms associated with DSM-5 Anxiety Disorders characterized by excessive fear and anxiety and related behavioral disturbances (including avoidance behaviors). Panic attacks can be a prominent type of fear response.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth have any problems with anxiety or fearfulness?Is the child/youth avoiding normal activities out of fear?Does the child/youth act frightened or afraid?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of anxiety symptoms.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> There is a history, suspicion, or evidence of mild anxiety associated with a recent negative life event. This level is used to rate either a mild phobia or anxiety problem that is not yet causing the child/youth significant distress or markedly impairing functioning in any important context.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Clear evidence of anxiety associated with either anxious mood or significant fearfulness. Anxiety has interfered in the child/youth's ability to function in at least one life domain.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Clear evidence of debilitating level of anxiety that makes it virtually impossible for the child/youth to function in any life domain.

OPPOSITIONAL (NON-COMPLIANCE WITH AUTHORITY)

This item rates the child/youth's relationship with authority figures. Generally oppositional behavior is displayed in response to conditions set by a parent, teacher or other authority figure with responsibility for and control over the child/youth.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth follow their caregivers' rules?Have teachers or other adults reported that the child/youth does not follow rules or directions?Does the child/youth argue with adults when they try to get the child/youth to do something?Does the child/youth do things that they have been explicitly told not to do?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of oppositional behaviors.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> There is a history or evidence of mild level of defiance towards authority figures that has not yet begun to cause functional impairment. Child/youth may occasionally talk back to teacher, parent/caregiver; there may be letters or calls from school.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Clear evidence of oppositional and/or defiant behavior towards authority figures that is currently interfering with the child/youth's functioning in at least one life domain. Behavior causes emotional harm to others. A child/youth whose behavior meets the criteria for Oppositional Defiant Disorder in DSM-5 would be rated here.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Clear evidence of a dangerous level of oppositional behavior involving the threat of physical harm to others. This rating indicates that the child/youth has severe problems with compliance with rules or adult instruction or authority.

CONDUCT

This item rates the degree to which a child/youth engages in behavior that is consistent with the presence of a Conduct Disorder.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the child/youth seen as dishonest? How does the child/youth handle telling the truth/lies?• Has the child/youth been part of any criminal behavior?• Has the child/youth ever shown violent or threatening behavior towards others?• Has the child/youth ever tortured animals?• Does the child/youth disregard or is unconcerned about the feelings of others (lack empathy)?	<p>0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of serious violations of others or laws.</p> <hr/> <p>1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> There is a history, suspicion or evidence of some problems associated with antisocial behavior including but not limited to lying, stealing, manipulation of others, acts of sexual aggression, or violence towards people, property or animals. The child/youth may have some difficulties in school and home behavior. Problems are recognizable but not notably deviant for age, sex and community.</p> <hr/> <p>2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Clear evidence of antisocial behavior including but not limited to lying, stealing, manipulating others, sexual aggression, violence towards people, property, or animals. A child/youth rated at this level will likely meet criteria for a diagnosis of Conduct Disorder.</p> <hr/> <p>3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Evidence of a severe level of aggressive or antisocial behavior, as described above, that places the child/youth or community at significant risk of physical harm due to these behaviors. This could include frequent episodes of unprovoked, planned aggressive or other antisocial behavior.</p>

ADJUSTMENT TO TRAUMA*

This item is used to describe the child/youth who is having difficulties adjusting to a traumatic experience, as defined by the child/youth. This is one item where speculation about why a person is displaying a certain behavior is considered. There should be an inferred link between the trauma and behavior.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the child/youth's trauma?• How is it connected to the current issue(s)?• What are the child/youth's coping skills?• Who is supporting the child/youth?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence that child/youth has experienced a traumatic life event, OR child/youth has adjusted well to traumatic/adverse experiences.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> The child/youth has experienced a traumatic event and there are some changes in their behavior that are managed or supported by caregivers. These symptoms are expected to ease with the passage of time and therefore no current intervention is warranted. Child/youth may be in the process of recovering from a more extreme reaction to a traumatic experience, which may require a need to watch these symptoms or engage in preventive action.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Clear evidence of adjustment problems associated with traumatic life event(s). Symptoms can vary widely and may include sleeping or eating disturbances, regressive behavior, behavior problems or problems with attachment. Adjustment is interfering with child/youth's functioning in at least one life domain.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Clear evidence of debilitating level of trauma symptoms that makes it virtually impossible for the child/youth to function in any life domain including symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares, significant anxiety, intrusive thoughts, and/or re-experiencing trauma (consistent with PTSD).

*** A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [B] Trauma Module.**

[B] TRAUMA MODULE

I. TRAUMATIC/ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

For the **Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experiences Module**, the following categories and action levels are used*:

No	No evidence of any trauma of this type.
Yes	Child/youth has had experience or there is suspicion that child/youth has experienced this type of trauma—one incident, multiple incidents, or chronic, on-going experiences.

*Please note that this rating scale represents a change from previous versions of the CANS.

Rate the following items within the child/youth's lifetime.

SEXUAL ABUSE

This item describes whether or not the child/youth has experienced sexual abuse.

Questions to Consider

- Has the caregiver or child/youth disclosed sexual abuse?
- How often did the abuse occur?
- Did the abuse result in physical injury?

Ratings and Descriptions

- | | |
|-----|---|
| No | There is no evidence that the child/youth has experienced sexual abuse. |
| Yes | Child/youth has experienced sexual abuse, or there is a suspicion that they have experienced sexual abuse – single or multiple episodes, or chronic over an extended period of time. The abuse may have involved penetration, multiple perpetrators, and/or associated physical injury. Child/youth with exposure to secondary sexual abuse (e.g., witnessing sexual abuse, having a sibling sexually abused) should be rated here. |

PHYSICAL ABUSE

This item describes whether or not the child/youth has experienced physical abuse.

Questions to Consider

- Is physical discipline used in the home? What forms?
- Has the child/youth ever received bruises, marks, or injury from discipline?

Ratings and Descriptions

- | | |
|-----|---|
| No | There is no evidence that the child/youth has experienced physical abuse. |
| Yes | Child/youth has experienced or there is a suspicion that they have experienced physical abuse – mild to severe, or repeated physical abuse with sufficient physical harm requiring medical treatment. |

NEGLECT

This item describes whether or not the child/youth has experienced neglect. Neglect can refer to a lack of food, shelter or supervision (physical neglect), lack of access to needed medical care (medical neglect), or failure to receive academic instruction (educational neglect).

Questions to Consider

- Is child/youth receiving adequate supervision?
- Are basic needs for food and shelter being met?
- Is the child/youth allowed access to necessary medical care? Education?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** There is no evidence that the child/youth has experienced neglect.
- Yes** Child/youth has experienced neglect, or there is a suspicion that they have experienced neglect. This includes occasional neglect (e.g., child/youth left home alone for a short period of time when developmentally inappropriate and with no adult supervision, or occasional failure to provide adequate supervision); multiple and/or prolonged absences of adults, with minimal supervision; or failure to provide basic necessities of life (adequate food, shelter, or clothing) on a regular basis.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

This item rates whether the child/youth has experienced verbal and nonverbal emotional abuse, including belittling, shaming, and humiliating, calling names, making negative comparisons to others, or telling the child/youth that they are “no good.” This item includes both “emotional abuse,” which would include psychological maltreatment such as insults or humiliation towards a child/youth and “emotional neglect,” described as the denial of emotional attention and/or support from caregivers.

Questions to Consider

- How does the caregiver talk to/interact with the child/youth?
- Is there name calling or shaming in the home?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** There is no evidence that child/youth has experienced emotional abuse.
- Yes** Child/youth has experienced emotional abuse, or there is a suspicion that they have experienced emotional abuse (mild to severe, for any length of time) including: insults or occasionally being referred to in a derogatory manner by caregivers, being denied emotional attention or completely ignored, or threatened/terrorized by others.

MEDICAL TRAUMA

This item describes whether or not the child/youth has experienced medically-related trauma, resulting from, for example, inpatient hospitalizations, outpatient procedures, and significant injuries.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth had any broken bones, stitches or other medical procedures?
- Has the child/youth had to go to the emergency room, or stay overnight in the hospital?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** There is no evidence that the child/youth has experienced any medical trauma.
- Yes** Child/youth has had a medical experience that was perceived as emotionally or mentally overwhelming. This includes events that were acute in nature and did not result in ongoing medical needs; associated distress such as minor surgery, stitches or bone setting; acute injuries and moderately invasive medical procedures such as major surgery that required only short term hospitalization; events that may have been life threatening and may have resulted in chronic health problems that alter the child/youth’s physical functioning. A suspicion that a child/youth has had a medical experience that was perceived as emotionally or mentally overwhelming should be rated here.

Supplemental Information: This item takes into account the impact of the event on the child/youth. It describes experiences in which the child/youth is subjected to medical procedures that are experienced as upsetting and overwhelming. A child/youth born with physical deformities who is subjected to multiple surgeries could be included. A child/youth who must experience chemotherapy or radiation could also be included. Children/youth who experience an accident and require immediate medical intervention that results in on-going physical limitations or deformities (e.g., burn victims) could be included here. Common medical procedures, which are generally not welcome or pleasant but are also not emotionally or psychologically overwhelming for children/youth (e.g., shots, pills) would generally not be rated here.

NATURAL OR MANMADE DISASTER

This item describes the child/youth's exposure to either natural or manmade disasters.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth been present during a natural or manmade disaster?
- Does the child/youth watch television shows containing these themes or overhear adults talking about these kinds of disasters?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** There is no evidence that the child/youth has experienced, been exposed to or witnessed natural or manmade disasters.
- Yes** Child/youth has experienced, been exposed to or witnessed natural or manmade disasters either directly or second-hand (i.e. on television, hearing others discuss disasters). This includes disasters such as a fire or earthquake or manmade disaster; car accident, plane crashes, or bombings; observing a caregiver who has been injured in a car accident or fire or watching a neighbor's house burn down; a disaster that caused significant harm or death to a loved one; or there is an ongoing impact or life disruption due to the disaster (e.g. caregiver loses job). A suspicion that the child/youth has experienced, been exposed to or witnessed natural or manmade disasters either directly or second-hand would be rated here.

WITNESS TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

This item describes exposure to violence within the child/youth's home or family.

Questions to Consider

- Is there frequent fighting in the child/youth's family?
- Does the fighting ever become physical?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** There is no evidence the child/youth has witnessed family violence.
- Yes** Child/youth has witnessed, or there is a suspicion that they have witnessed family violence – single, repeated, or severe episodes. This includes episodes of family violence but no significant injuries (i.e. requiring emergency medical attention) and episodes in which significant injuries have occurred as a direct result of the violence.

WITNESS TO COMMUNITY/SCHOOL VIOLENCE

This item describes the exposure to incidents of violence the child/youth has witnessed or experienced in their community. This includes witnessing violence at the child/youth's school or educational setting.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth live in a neighborhood with frequent violence?
- Has the child/youth witnessed or directly experienced violence at their school?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** There is no evidence that the child/youth has witnessed violence in the community or in school.
- Yes** Child/youth has witnessed or experienced violence in the community or in school, such as: fighting; friends/family injuries as a result of violence; severe and repeated instances of violence and/or the death of another person in their community/school as a result of violence; is the direct victim of violence/criminal activity in the community/school that was life threatening; or has experienced chronic/ongoing impact as a result of community/school violence (e.g., family member injured and no longer able to work). A suspicion that the child/youth has witnessed or experienced violence in the community would be rated here.

VICTIM/WITNESS TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

This item describes the child/youth's exposure to criminal activity. Criminal behavior includes any behavior for which an adult could go to prison including drug dealing, assault or battery.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth or someone in their family ever been the victim of a crime?
- Has the child/youth seen criminal activity in the community or home?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** There is no evidence that the child/youth has been victim or a witness to criminal activity.
- Yes** Child/youth has been victimized, or there is suspicion that they have been victimized or witnessed criminal activity. This includes a single instance, multiple instances, or chronic and severe instances of criminal activity that was life threatening or caused significant physical harm, or child/youth has witnessed the death of a family friend, loved one.

Supplemental Information: Any behavior that could result in incarceration is considered criminal activity. A child/youth who has been sexually abused or witnesses a sibling being sexually abused or physically abused to the extent that assault charges could be filed would be rated here and on the appropriate abuse-specific items. A child/youth who has witnessed drug dealing, assault or battery would also be rated on this item.

WAR/TERRORISM AFFECTED

This item describes the child/youth's exposure to war, political violence, torture or terrorism.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth or their family lived in a war torn region?
- How close was the child/youth to war or political violence, torture or terrorism?
- Was the family displaced?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No** No evidence that the child/youth has been exposed to war, political violence, torture or terrorism.
- Yes** Child/youth has experienced, or there is suspicion that they have experienced or been affected by war, terrorism or political violence. Examples include: Family members directly related to the child/youth may have been exposed to war, political violence, or torture resulting in displacement, injury or disability, or death; parents may have been physically or psychologically disabled from the war and are unable to adequately care for the child/youth; child/youth may have spent an extended amount of time in a refugee camp, or feared for their own life during war or terrorism due to bombings or shelling very near to them; child/youth may have been directly injured, tortured, or kidnapped in a terrorist attack; child/youth may have served as a soldier, guerrilla, or other combatant in their home country. Also included is a child/youth who did not live in war or terrorism-affected region or refugee camp, but family was affected by war.

Supplemental Information: Terrorism is defined as "the calculated use of violence or the threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological." Terrorism includes attacks by individuals acting in isolation (e.g. sniper attacks).

DISRUPTIONS IN CAREGIVING/ATTACHMENT LOSSES

This item documents the extent to which a child/youth has had one or more major changes in caregivers, potentially resulting in disruptions in attachment.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth ever lived apart from their parents/caregivers?
- What happened that resulted in the child/youth living apart from their parents/caregivers?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No There is no evidence that the child/youth has experienced disruptions in caregiving and/or attachment losses.
- Yes Child/youth has been exposed to, or there is suspicion that they have been exposed to at least one disruption in caregiving with familiar alternative caregivers or unknown caregivers (this includes placement in foster or other out-of-home care such as residential care facilities). Child/youth may or may not have had ongoing contact with primary attachment figure(s) during this disruption. Shift in caregiving may have been temporary or permanent.

Supplemental Information: Children/youth who have been exposed to disruptions in caregiving involving separation from primary attachment figure(s) and/or attachment losses would be rated here. Children/youth who have had placement changes, including stays in foster care, residential treatment facilities or juvenile justice settings, can be rated here. Short-term hospital stays or brief juvenile detention stays, during which the child/youth's caregiver remains the same, would not be rated on this item.

PARENTAL CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

This item describes the criminal behavior of both biological and step parents, and other legal guardians, but not foster parents.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth's parents/guardian or family been involved in criminal activities or ever been in jail?

Ratings and Descriptions

- No There is no evidence that child/youth's parents have ever engaged in criminal behavior.
- Yes One or both of the child/youth's parents/guardians have a history of criminal behavior that resulted in a conviction or incarceration. A suspicion that one or both of the child/youth's parents/guardians have a history of criminal behavior that resulted in conviction or incarceration would be rated here.

2. TRAUMATIC STRESS SYMPTOMS

Rate the following items within the last 30 days.

EMOTIONAL AND/OR PHYSICAL DYSREGULATION

This item describes the child/youth's difficulties with arousal regulation or expressing emotions and energy states.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth have reactions that seem out of proportion to the situation?
- Does the child/youth have extreme or unchecked emotional reactions to situations?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth has no difficulties regulating emotional or physiological responses. Emotional responses and energy level are appropriate to the situation.
- 1 History or evidence of difficulties with affect/physiological regulation. The child/youth could have some difficulty tolerating intense emotions and become somewhat jumpy or irritable in response to emotionally charged stimuli, or more watchful or hypervigilant in general or have some difficulties with regulating body functions (e.g. sleeping, eating or elimination). The child/youth may also have some difficulty sustaining involvement in activities for any length of time or have some physical or somatic complaints.
- 2 Child/youth has problems with affect/physiological regulation that are impacting their functioning in some life domains, but is able to control affect at times. The child/youth may be unable to modulate emotional responses or have more persistent difficulties in regulating bodily functions. Child/youth may exhibit marked shifts in emotional responses (e.g. from sadness to irritability to anxiety) or have contained emotions with a tendency to lose control of emotions at various points (e.g. normally restricted affect punctuated by outbursts of anger or sadness). The child/youth may also exhibit persistent anxiety, intense fear or helplessness, lethargy/loss of motivation, or affective or physiological over-arousal or reactivity (e.g. silly behavior, loose active limbs) or under-arousal (e.g. lack of movement and facial expressions, slowed walking and talking).
- 3 Child/youth is unable to regulate affect and/or physiological responses. The child/youth may have more rapid shifts in mood and an inability to modulate emotional responses (feeling out of control of their emotions or lacking control over their movement as it relates to their emotional states). The child/youth may also exhibit tightly contained emotions with intense outbursts under stress. Alternately, the child/youth may be characterized by extreme lethargy, loss of motivation or drive, and no ability to concentrate or sustain engagement in activities (i.e. emotionally "shut down"). The child/youth may have more persistent and severe difficulties regulating sleep/wake cycle, eating patterns, or have elimination problems.

INTRUSIONS/RE-EXPERIENCING

This item describes intrusive memories or reminders of traumatic events, including nightmares, flashbacks, intense reliving of the events, and repetitive play with themes of specific traumatic experiences.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth experience intrusions?
- If so, when and how often do they occur?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 There is no evidence that child/youth experiences intrusive thoughts of trauma.
- 1 History or evidence of some intrusive thoughts of trauma but it does not affect the child/youth's functioning. A child/youth with some problems with intrusive, distressing memories, including occasional nightmares about traumatic events, would be rated here.
- 2 Child/youth has difficulties with intrusive symptoms/distressing memories, intrusive thoughts that interfere in their ability to function in some life domains. For example, the child/youth may have recurrent frightening dreams with or without recognizable content or recurrent distressing thoughts, images, perceptions or memories of traumatic events. The child/youth may exhibit trauma-specific reenactments through repetitive play with themes of trauma or intense physiological reactions to exposure to traumatic cues.
- 3 Child/youth has repeated and/or severe intrusive symptoms/distressing memories that are debilitating. This child/youth may exhibit trauma-specific reenactments that include sexually or physically traumatizing other children or sexual play with adults. This child/youth may also exhibit persistent flashbacks, illusions or hallucinations that make it difficult for them to function.

HYPERAROUSAL

This item includes difficulty falling asleep, irritability or outbursts of anger, difficulty concentrating, hyper vigilance and/or exaggerated startle response. Child/youth may also show common physical symptoms such as stomachaches and headaches. These symptoms are a part of the DSM-5 criteria for Trauma-Related Adjustment Disorder, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and other Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth feel more jumpy or irritable than is usual?
- Does the child/youth have difficulty relaxing and/or have an exaggerated startle response?
- Does the child/youth have stress-related physical symptoms: stomach or headaches?
- Do these stress-related symptoms interfere with the child/youth's ability to function?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth has no evidence of hyperarousal symptoms.
- 1 History or evidence of hyperarousal that does not interfere with daily functioning. Child/youth may occasionally manifest distress-related physical symptoms such as stomachaches and headaches.
- 2 Child/youth exhibits one significant symptom or a combination of two or more of the following hyperarousal symptoms: difficulty falling or staying asleep, irritability or outbursts of anger, difficulty concentrating, hyper vigilance and/or exaggerated startle response. Children/youth who frequently manifest distress-related physical symptoms such as stomachaches and headaches would be rated here. Symptoms are distressing for the child/youth and/or caregiver and negatively impacts day-to-day functioning.
- 3 Child/youth exhibits multiple and/or severe hyperarousal symptoms including alterations in arousal and physiological and behavioral reactivity associated with traumatic event(s). This may include difficulty falling or staying asleep, irritability or outbursts of anger, difficulty concentrating, hyper vigilance and/or exaggerated startle response. Intensity and frequency of these symptoms are overwhelming for the child/youth and/or caregiver and impede day-to-day functioning in many life areas.

TRAUMATIC GRIEF & SEPARATION

This item describes the level of traumatic grief the child/youth is experiencing due to death or loss/separation from significant caregivers, siblings, or other significant figures.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the trauma reaction of the child/youth based on a grief/loss experience?How much does the child/youth's reaction to the loss impact functioning?	0 There is no evidence that the child/youth is experiencing traumatic grief or separation from the loss of significant caregivers. Either the child/youth has not experienced a traumatic loss (e.g., death of a loved one) or the child/youth has adjusted well to separation.
	1 Child/youth is experiencing traumatic grief due to death or loss/separation from a significant person in a manner that is expected and/or appropriate given the recent nature of loss or separation. History of traumatic grief symptoms would be rated here.
	2 Child/youth is experiencing traumatic grief or difficulties with separation in a manner that impairs functioning in some but not all areas. This could include withdrawal or isolation from others or other problems with day-to-day functioning.
	3 Child/youth is experiencing dangerous or debilitating traumatic grief reactions that impair their functioning across several areas (e.g. interpersonal relationships, school) for a significant period of time following the loss or separation. Symptoms require immediate or intensive intervention.

NUMBING

This item describes the child/youth's reduced capacity to feel or experience and express a range of emotions. These numbing responses were not present before the trauma.

	Ratings and Descriptions
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth experience a normal range of emotions?Does the child/youth tend to have flat emotional responses?	0 Child/youth has no evidence of numbing responses.
	1 Child/youth has history or evidence of problems with numbing. They may have a restricted range of affect or be unable to express or experience certain emotions (e.g., anger or sadness).
	2 Child/youth exhibits numbing responses that impair functioning in at least one life domain. Child/youth may have a blunted or flat emotional state or have difficulty experiencing intense emotions or feel consistently detached or estranged from others following the traumatic experience.
	3 Child/youth exhibits significant numbing responses or multiple symptoms of numbing that put them at risk. This child/youth may have a markedly diminished interest or participation in significant activities and a sense of a foreshortened future.

DISSOCIATION

This item includes symptoms such as daydreaming, spacing or blanking out, forgetfulness, fragmentation, detachment, and rapid changes in personality often associated with traumatic experiences.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth ever enter a dissociative state?Does the child/youth often become confused about who or where they are?Has the child/youth been diagnosed with a dissociative disorder?	0 No evidence of dissociation.
	1 Child/youth has history or evidence of dissociative problems, including some emotional numbing, avoidance or detachment, and some difficulty with forgetfulness, daydreaming, spacing or blanking out.
	2 Child/youth exhibits dissociative problems that interfere with functioning in at least one life domain. This can include amnesia for traumatic experiences or inconsistent memory for trauma (e.g., remembers in one context but not another), more persistent or perplexing difficulties with forgetfulness (e.g., loses things easily, forgets basic information), frequent daydreaming or trance-like behavior, depersonalization and/or derealization. This rating would be used for someone who meets criteria for Dissociative Disorders or another diagnosis that is specified "with dissociative features."
	3 Child/youth exhibits dangerous and/or debilitating dissociative symptoms. This can include significant memory difficulties associated with trauma that also impede day to day functioning. Child/youth is frequently forgetful or confused about things they should know about (e.g., no memory for activities or whereabouts of previous day or hours). Child/youth shows rapid changes in personality or evidence of distinct personalities. Child/youth who meets criteria for Dissociative Identity Disorder or a more severe level of a Dissociative Disorder would be rated here.

AVOIDANCE

This item describes efforts to avoid stimuli associated with traumatic experiences. These symptoms are part of the DSM criteria for PTSD and Acute Stress Disorder.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth make specific and concerted attempts to avoid sights, sounds, smells, etc. that are related to the trauma experience?	0 Child/youth exhibits no avoidance symptoms.
	1 Child/youth may have history or exhibits one primary avoidant symptom, including efforts to avoid thoughts, feelings or conversations associated with the trauma.
	2 Child/youth exhibits avoidance symptoms that interfere with their functioning in at least one life domain. In addition to avoiding thoughts or feelings associated with the trauma, the child/youth may also avoid activities, places, or people that arouse recollections of the trauma.
	3 Child/youth's avoidance symptoms are debilitating. Child/youth may avoid thoughts, feelings, situations and people associated with the trauma and is unable to recall important aspects of the trauma.

End of Trauma Module

ATTACHMENT DIFFICULTIES

This item rates the level of difficulties the child/youth has with attachment and their ability to form relationships.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth struggle with separating from caregiver?Does the child/youth approach or attach to strangers?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of attachment problems. Caregiver-youth relationship is characterized by mutual satisfaction of needs and child/youth's development of a sense of security and trust. Caregiver is able to respond to child/youth cues in a consistent, appropriate manner, and child/youth seeks age-appropriate contact with caregiver for both nurturing and safety needs.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Some history or evidence of insecurity in the caregiver-youth relationship. Caregiver may have difficulty accurately reading child/youth's bids for attention and nurturance; may be inconsistent in response; or may be occasionally intrusive. Child/youth may have some problems with separation (e.g., anxious/clingy behaviors in the absence of obvious cues of danger) or may avoid contact with caregiver in age-inappropriate way. Child/youth may have minor difficulties with appropriate physical/emotional boundaries with others.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Problems with attachment that interfere with child/youth's functioning in at least one life domain and require intervention. Caregiver may consistently misinterpret child/youth cues, act in an overly intrusive way, or ignore/avoid child/youth bids for attention/nurturance. Child/youth may have ongoing difficulties with separation, may consistently avoid contact with caregivers, and have ongoing difficulties with physical or emotional boundaries with others.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth is unable to form attachment relationships with others (e.g., chronic dismissive/avoidant/detached behavior in care giving relationships) OR child/youth presents with diffuse emotional/physical boundaries leading to indiscriminate attachment with others. Child/youth is considered at ongoing risk due to the nature of their attachment behaviors. Child/youth may have experienced significant early separation from or loss of caregiver, or have experienced chronic inadequate care from early caregivers, or child/youth may have individual vulnerabilities (e.g., mental health, developmental disabilities) that interfere with the formation of positive attachment relationships.

ANGER CONTROL

This item captures the child/youth's ability to identify and manage their anger when frustrated.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of any anger control problems.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History, suspicion of, or evidence of some problems with controlling anger. Child/youth may sometimes become verbally aggressive when frustrated. Peers and family are aware of and may attempt to avoid stimulating angry outbursts.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth's difficulties with controlling anger are impacting functioning in at least one life domain. Child/youth's temper has resulted in significant trouble with peers, family and/or school. Anger may be associated with physical violence. Others are likely quite aware of anger potential.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth's temper or anger control problem is dangerous. Child/youth frequently gets into fights that are often physical. Others likely fear the child/youth.

SUBSTANCE USE*

This item describes problems related to the use of alcohol and illegal drugs, the misuse of prescription medications, and the inhalation of any chemical or synthetic substance by a child/youth. This rating is consistent with DSM-5 Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders. This item does not apply to the use of tobacco or caffeine.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> Child/youth has no notable substance use difficulties at the present time.
	1 <i>Identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth has substance use problems that occasionally interfere with daily life (e.g., intoxication, loss of money, reduced work/school performance, parental concern). History of substance use problems without evidence of current problems related to use is rated here.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed; need is interfering with functioning.</i> Child/youth has a substance use problem that consistently interferes with the ability to function optimally, but does not completely preclude functioning in an unstructured setting.
	3 <i>Need is dangerous or disabling; requires immediate and/or intensive action.</i> Child/youth has a substance use problem that represents complications to functional issues that may result in danger to self, public safety issues, or the need for detoxification of the child/youth.

***A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [C] Substance Use Disorder Module.**

[C] SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER MODULE

Rate the following items within the last 30 days unless specified by anchor descriptions.

SEVERITY OF USE

This item rates the frequency and severity of the child/youth's current substance use.

Questions to Consider

- Is the child/youth currently using substances? If so, how frequently?
- Is there evidence of physical dependence on substances?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth is currently abstinent and has maintained abstinence for at least six months.
- 1 Child/youth is currently abstinent but only in the past 30 days or child/youth has been abstinent for more than 30 days but is living in an environment that makes substance use difficult.
- 2 Child/youth actively uses alcohol or drugs but not daily.
- 3 Child/youth uses alcohol and/or drugs on a daily basis.

DURATION OF USE

This item identifies the length of time that the child/youth has been using drugs or alcohol.

Questions to Consider

- How long has the child/youth been using drugs and/or alcohol?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth has begun use in the past year.
- 1 Child/youth has been using alcohol or drugs for at least one year but has had periods of at least 30 days where the child/youth did not have any use.
- 2 Child/youth has been using alcohol or drugs for at least one year (but less than five years), but not daily.
- 3 Child/youth has been using alcohol or drugs daily for more than the past year or intermittently for at least five years.

STAGE OF RECOVERY

This item identifies where the child/youth is in their recovery process.

Questions to Consider

- In relation to stopping substance use, at what stage of change is the child/youth?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth is in maintenance stage of recovery. Child/youth is abstinent and able to recognize and avoid risk factors for future alcohol or drug use.
- 1 Child/youth is actively trying to use treatment to remain abstinent.
- 2 Child/youth is in contemplation phase, recognizing a problem but not willing to take steps for recovery.
- 3 Child/youth is in denial regarding the existence of any substance use problem.

PEER INFLUENCES

This item identifies the impact that the child/youth's social group has on the child/youth's substance use.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">What role do the child/youth's peers play in their alcohol and drug use?	0 Child/youth's primary peer social network does not engage in alcohol or drug use.
	1 Child/youth has peers in their primary peer social network who do not engage in alcohol or drug use but has some peers who do.
	2 Child/youth predominantly has peers who engage in alcohol or drug use but child/youth is not a member of a gang.
	3 Child/youth is a member of a peer group that consistently engages in alcohol or drug use.

PARENTAL/CAREGIVER INFLUENCES

This item rates the parent's/caregiver's use of drugs or alcohol with or in the presence of the child/youth.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do the caregiver(s) use substances? If so, does the caregiver's use impact the child/youth's use?	0 There is no evidence that child/youth's caregivers have ever engaged in substance abuse.
	1 One of child/youth's caregivers has history of substance abuse but not in the past year.
	2 One or both of child/youth's caregivers have been intoxicated with alcohol or drugs in the presence of the child/youth.
	3 One or both of child/youth's caregivers use alcohol or drugs with the child/youth.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

This item rates the impact of the child/youth's community environment on their alcohol and drug use.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Are there factors in the child/youth's community that impact their alcohol and drug use?	0 No evidence that the child/youth's environment stimulates or exposes the child/youth to any alcohol or drug use.
	1 Suspicion that child/youth's environment might expose the child/youth to alcohol or drug use.
	2 Child/youth's environment clearly exposes the child/youth to alcohol or drug use.
	3 Child/youth's environment encourages or enables the child/youth to engage in alcohol or drug use.

End of Substance Use Module

RISK BEHAVIORS DOMAIN

This section focuses on behaviors that can get children and youth in trouble or put them in danger of harming themselves or others. Time frames in this section can change (particularly for ratings '1' and '3') away from the standard 30-day rating window.

Question to Consider for this Domain: Does the child/youth's behaviors put them at risk for serious harm?

For the **Risk Behaviors Domain**, use the following categories and action levels:

- 0 No evidence of any needs; no need for action.
- 1 Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.
- 2 Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.
- 3 Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.

SUICIDE RISK

This item is intended to describe the presence of thoughts or behaviors aimed at taking one's life. This rating describes both suicidal and significant self-injurious behavior. This item rates overt and covert thoughts and efforts on the part of a child or youth to end their life. A rating of '2' or '3' would indicate the need for a safety plan. Notice the specific time frames for each rating.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth ever talked about a wish or plan to die or to kill themselves?
- Has the child/youth ever tried to commit suicide?

Ratings and Descriptions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i>
No evidence of suicidal ideation. |
| 1 | <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i>
History of suicidal ideation, but no recent ideation or gesture. History of suicidal behaviors or significant ideation but none during the recent past. |
| 2 | <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i>
Recent, but not acute, suicidal ideation or gesture. |
| 3 | <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i>
Current suicidal ideation and intent OR command hallucinations that involve self-harm. |

NON-SUICIDAL SELF-INJURIOUS BEHAVIOR

This item includes repetitive, physically harmful behavior that generally serves as a self-soothing function to the child/youth (e.g., cutting, carving, burning self, face slapping, head banging, etc.).

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the behavior serve a self-soothing purpose (e.g., numb emotional pain, move the focus of emotional pain to the physical)?Does the child/youth ever purposely hurt themselves (e.g., cutting)?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of any forms of self-injury.
	1 <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> A history or suspicion of self-injurious behavior.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Engaged in self-injurious behavior (e.g., cutting, burns, piercing skin with sharp objects, repeated head banging) that does not require medical attention.
	3 <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Engaged in self-injurious behavior requiring medical intervention (e.g., sutures, surgery) and that is significant enough to put the child/youth's health at risk.

OTHER SELF-HARM (RECKLESSNESS)

This item includes reckless and dangerous behaviors that, while not intended to harm self or others, place the child/youth or others in some jeopardy. Suicidal or self-injurious behaviors are not rated here.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth act without thinking?Has the child/youth ever talked about or acted in a way that might be dangerous to themselves (e.g., reckless behavior such as riding on top of cars, reckless driving, climbing bridges, etc.)?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of behaviors (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that place the child/youth at risk of physical harm.
	1 <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> There is a history or suspicion of or mild reckless or risk-taking behavior (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that places child/youth at risk of physical harm.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Engaged in reckless or intentional risk-taking behavior (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that places the child/youth in danger of physical harm.
	3 <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Engaged in reckless or intentional risk-taking behavior (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that places the child/youth at immediate risk of death.

DANGER TO OTHERS*

This item rates the child/youth's violent or aggressive behavior. The intention of this behavior is to cause significant bodily harm to others. A rating of '2' or '3' would indicate the need for a safety plan. Reckless behavior that may cause physical harm to others is not rated on this item.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Has the child/youth ever injured another person on purpose?Does the child/youth get into physical fights?Has the child/youth ever threatened to kill or seriously injure others?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence or history of aggressive behaviors or significant verbal threats of aggression towards others (including people and animals).
	1 <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History of aggressive behavior or verbal threats of aggression towards others. History of fire setting would be rated here.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Occasional or moderate level of aggression towards others. Child/youth has made verbal threats of violence towards others.
	3 <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Acute homicidal ideation with a plan, frequent or dangerous (significant harm) level of aggression to others. Child/youth is an immediate risk to others.

*** A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [D] Violence Module.**

[D] VIOLENCE MODULE

HISTORICAL RISK FACTORS

Rate the following items within the child/youth's lifetime.

HISTORY OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

This item rates the history of physical abuse the child/youth has received.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Has the child/youth ever been physically abused?	0 No evidence of a history of physical abuse.
	1 Child/youth has experienced corporal punishment.
	2 Child/youth has experienced physical abuse on one or more occasions from caregiver or parent.
	3 Child/youth has experienced extreme physical abuse that has resulted in physical injuries that required medical care.

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

This item rates the child/youth's history of violence.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the child/youth ever been violent with a sibling, peer, and/or adult? 	0 No evidence of any history of violent behavior by the child/youth.
	1 Child/youth has engaged in mild forms of violent behavior including vandalism, minor destruction of property, physical fights in which no one was injured (e.g. shoving, wrestling).
	2 Child/youth has engaged in moderate forms of violent behavior including fights in which participants were injured. Cruelty to animals would be rated here unless it resulted in significant injury or death of the animal.
	3 Child/youth has initiated unprovoked violent behaviors on other people that resulted in injuries to these people. Cruelty to animals that resulted in significant injury or death to the animal would be rated here.

WITNESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This item rates the extent of domestic violence the child/youth has witnessed.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the child/youth ever witnessed violence in the home? Has a family member needed to be hospitalized or passed away? 	0 No evidence that child/youth has witnessed domestic violence.
	1 Child/youth has witnessed physical violence in household on at least one occasion but the violence did not result in injury.
	2 Child/youth has witnessed repeated domestic violence that has resulted in the injury of at least one family member that required medical treatment.
	3 Child/youth has been a witness to murder or rape of a family member.

WITNESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLENCE

This item rates the extent of violence the child/youth has witnessed in their community/environment.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the child/youth ever witnessed violence in their environment? 	0 No evidence that child/youth has witnessed violence in their environment and they do not watch an excessive amount of violent media.
	1 Child/youth has not witnessed violence in their environment but watches an excessive amount of violent media including movies and video games.
	2 Child/youth has witnessed at least one occasion of violence in their environment.
	3 Child/youth has witnessed a murder or rape.

EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL RISKS

Rate the following items within the last 30 days.

BULLYING

This item describes perpetrators of the exploitation of others. Generally, this refers to bullying other children or youth (usually smaller or younger ones); however, it could include children/youth who bully adults.

Questions to Consider

- Have there been any reports that the child/youth has picked on, made fun or, harassed or intimidated another person?
- Are there concerns that the child/youth might bully other children?
- Does the child/youth hang around with other people who bully?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth has never engaged in bullying at school or in the community.
- 1 Child/youth has been involved with groups that have bullied other children/youth either in school or the community; however, child/youth has not had a leadership role in these groups.
- 2 Child/youth has bullied other children/youth in school or community. Child/youth has either bullied the other children/youth individually or led a group that bullied children/youth.
- 3 Child/youth has repeatedly utilized threats or actual violence to bully children/youth in school and/or community.

FRUSTRATION MANAGEMENT

This item describes the child/youth's ability to manage their own anger and frustration tolerance.

Questions to Consider

- How does the child/youth control their temper?
- Does the child/youth get upset or frustrated easily?
- Does the child/youth become physically aggressive when angry?
- Does the child/youth have a hard time managing anger if someone criticizes or rejects them?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth appears to be able to manage frustration well. No evidence of problems of frustration management.
- 1 Child/youth has some mild problems with frustration. The child/youth may anger easily when frustrated; however, the child/youth is able to calm themselves down following an angry outburst.
- 2 Child/youth has problems managing frustration. The child/youth's anger when frustrated is causing functioning problems in school, at home, or with peers.
- 3 Child/youth becomes explosive and dangerous to others when frustrated. The child/youth demonstrates little self-control in these situations and others must intervene to restore control.

HOSTILITY

This item rates the perception of others regarding the child/youth's level of anger and hostility.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the child/youth seem hostile frequently or in inappropriate environments/situations? 	0 Child/youth appears to not experience or express hostility except in situations where most people would become hostile.
	1 Child/youth appears hostile but does not express it. Others experience them as being angry.
	2 Child/youth expresses hostility regularly.
	3 Child/youth is almost always hostile either in expression or appearance. Others may experience child/youth as 'full of rage' or 'seething.'

PARANOID THINKING

This item rates the existence/level of paranoid thinking experienced by the child/youth.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the child/youth seem suspicious? Is there any evidence of paranoid thinking/beliefs? Is the child/youth very guarded? 	0 Child/youth does not appear to engage in any paranoid thinking.
	1 Child/youth is suspicious of others but is able to test out these suspicions and adjust their thinking appropriately.
	2 Child/youth believes that others are 'out to get' them. Child/youth has trouble accepting that these beliefs may not be accurate. Child/youth at times is suspicious and guarded but at other times can be open and friendly.
	3 Child/youth believes that others plan to cause them harm. Child/youth is nearly always suspicious and guarded.

SECONDARY GAINS FROM ANGER

This item is used to rate the presence of anger to obtain additional benefits.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens after the child/youth gets angry? Do they get anything in return? Does the child/youth typically get what they want from expressing anger? 	0 Child/youth either does not engage in angry behavior or, when they do become angry, does not appear to derive any benefits from this behavior.
	1 Child/youth unintentionally has benefited from angry behavior; however, there is no evidence that child/youth intentionally uses angry behavior to achieve desired outcomes.
	2 Child/youth sometimes uses angry behavior to achieve desired outcomes with parents, caregivers, teachers, or peers.
	3 Child/youth routinely uses angry behavior to achieve desired outcomes with parents, caregivers, teachers, or peers. Others in child/youth's life appear intimidated.

VIOLENT THINKING

This item rates the level of violence and aggression in the child/youth's thinking.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth report having violent thoughts?Does the child/youth verbalize their violent thoughts either specifically or by using violent themes?	<p>0 There is no evidence that child/youth engages in violent thinking.</p> <p>1 Child/youth has some occasional or minor thoughts about violence.</p> <p>2 Child/youth has violent ideation. Language is often characterized as having violent themes and problem solving often refers to violent outcomes.</p> <p>3 Child/youth has specific homicidal ideation or appears obsessed with thoughts about violence. For example, a child/youth who spontaneously and frequently draws only violent images may be rated here.</p>

RESILIENCY FACTORS

Rate the following items within the last 30 days.

AWARENESS OF VIOLENCE POTENTIAL

This item rates the child/youth's insight into their risk of violence.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the child/youth aware of the risks of their potential to be violent?Is the child/youth concerned about these risks?Can the child/youth predict when/where/for what reason they will get angry and/or possibly become violent?	<p>0 Child/youth is completely aware of their level of risk of violence. Child/youth knows and understands their risk factors. Child/youth accepts responsibility for past and future behaviors. Child/youth is able to anticipate future challenging circumstances. A child/youth with no violence potential would be rated here.</p> <p>1 Child/youth is generally aware of their potential for violence. Child/youth is knowledgeable about their risk factors and is generally able to take responsibility. Child/youth may be unable to anticipate future circumstances that may challenge them.</p> <p>2 Child/youth has some awareness of their potential for violence. Child/youth may have tendency to blame others but is able to accept some responsibility for their actions.</p> <p>3 Child/youth has no awareness of their potential for violence. Child/youth may deny past violent acts or explain them in terms of justice or as deserved by the victim.</p>

RESPONSE TO CONSEQUENCES

This item rates the child/youth's reaction when they get consequences for violence or aggression.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">How does the child/youth react to consequences given for violent or aggressive behavior?	<p>0 Child/youth is clearly and predictably responsive to identified consequences. Child/youth is regularly able to anticipate consequences and adjust behavior.</p> <p>1 Child/youth is generally responsive to identified consequences; however, not all appropriate consequences have been identified or child/youth may sometimes fail to anticipate consequences.</p> <p>2 Child/youth responds to consequences on some occasions but sometimes does not appear to care about consequences for their violent behavior.</p> <p>3 Child/youth is unresponsive to consequences for their violent behavior.</p>

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#) [\[Return to Core Item List\]](#)

COMMITMENT TO SELF CONTROL

This item rates the child/youth's willingness and commitment to controlling aggressive and/or violent behaviors.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth want to change their behaviors?Is the child/youth committed to such change?	0 Child/youth is fully committed to controlling their violent behavior.
	1 Child/youth is generally committed to controlling their violent behavior; however, child/youth may continue to struggle with control in some challenging circumstances.
	2 Child/youth is ambivalent about controlling their violent behavior.
	3 Child/youth is not interested in controlling their violent behavior at this time.

TREATMENT INVOLVEMENT

This item rates the child/youth and/or family's involvement in their treatment.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the child/youth on medication or have a treatment plan?Does the child/youth and family know what the plan is?	0 Child/youth is fully involved in their own treatment. Family supports treatment as well.
	1 Child/youth or family is involved in treatment but not both. Child/youth may be somewhat involved in treatment, while family members are active or child/youth may be very involved in treatment while family members are unsupportive.
	2 Child/youth and family are ambivalent about treatment involvement. Child/youth and/or family may be skeptical about treatment effectiveness or suspicious about clinician intentions.
	3 Child/youth and family are uninterested in treatment involvement. A child/youth with treatment needs who is not currently in treatment would be rated here.

End of Violence Module

SEXUAL AGGRESSION*

This item is intended to describe both aggressive sexual behavior and sexual behavior in which the child/youth takes advantage of a younger or less powerful child/youth. The severity and recency of the behavior provide the information needed to rate this item.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Has the child/youth ever been accused of being sexually aggressive towards another child/youth?Has the child/youth had sexual contact with a younger individual?	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of sexually aggressive behavior.
	1 <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History or suspicion of sexually aggressive behavior and/or sexually inappropriate behavior within the past year that troubles others such as harassing talk or public masturbation.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Child/youth engages in sexually aggressive behavior that negatively impacts functioning. For example, frequent inappropriate sexual behavior (e.g., inappropriate touching of others). Frequent disrobing would be rated here only if it was sexually provocative.
	3 <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Child/youth engages in a dangerous level of sexually aggressive behavior. This would indicate the rape or sexual abuse of another person involving sexual penetration.

***A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [E] Sexually Aggressive Behavior Module.**

[E] SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR MODULE

Please rate the most recent episode of sexually aggressive behavior.

RELATIONSHIP

This item rates the nature of the relationship between the child/youth and the victim of their aggression.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">How does the child/youth know the other child involved?Is there a power differential between parties?Did the sexual aggression include physical harm to another person?	0 No evidence of victimizing others. All parties in sexual activity appear to be consenting. No power differential.
	1 Although parties appear to be consenting, there is a significant power differential between parties in the sexual activity with this child/youth being in the position of authority.
	2 Child/youth is clearly victimizing at least one other individual with sexually abusive behavior.
	3 Child/youth is severely victimizing at least one other individual with sexually abusive behavior. This may include physical harm that results from either the sexual behavior or physical force associated with sexual behavior.

PHYSICAL FORCE/THREAT

This item rates the level of physical force involved in the sexual aggression.

Questions to Consider

- Did the sex act include physical force or the threat of force? If so, how intense was that force?
- Was the victim physically harmed or at risk of serious harm?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 No evidence of the use of any physical force or threat of force in either the commission of the sex act or in attempting to hide it.
- 1 Evidence of the use of the threat of force in an attempt to discourage the victim from reporting the sex act.
- 2 Evidence of the use of mild to moderate force in the sex act. There is some physical harm or risk of physical harm.
- 3 Evidence of severe physical force in the commission of the sex act. Victim harmed or at risk for physical harm from the use of force.

PLANNING

This item rates whether there is evidence of planning of the sexual activity and should be rated only for the perpetrator.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth plan their sexual activities, or do they happen spontaneously?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 No evidence of any planning. Sexual activity appears entirely opportunistic.
- 1 Some evidence of efforts to get into situations where likelihood of opportunities for sexual activity are enhanced.
- 2 Evidence of some planning of sex act.
- 3 Considerable evidence of predatory sexual behavior in which victim is identified prior to the act, and the act is premeditated.

AGE DIFFERENTIAL

Please rate the highest level from the most recent episode of sexual behavior. This item should be rated only for the perpetrator.

Questions to Consider

- What is the age of the individual the child/youth has had sex with?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Ages of the perpetrator and victim and/or participants essentially equivalent (less than 3 years apart).
- 1 Age differential between perpetrator and victim and/or participants is 3 to 4 years.
- 2 Age differential between perpetrator and victim at least 5 years, but perpetrator less than 13 years old.
- 3 Age differential between perpetrator and victim at least 5 years and perpetrator 13 years old or older.

TYPE OF SEX ACT

This item rates the kind of sex act involved in the aggression. Rate the most serious type of aggression present.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the exact sex act involved in the child/youth's aggression? 	0 Sex act involved touching or fondling only.
	1 Sex act involved fondling plus possible penetration with fingers or oral sex.
	2 Sex act involved penetration into genitalia or anus with body part.
	3 Sex act involved physically dangerous penetration due to differential size or use of an object.

RESPONSE TO ACCUSATION

This item rates how the child/youth responded to the accusation and the remorse felt by the child/youth.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the child/youth sorry for their behavior? Does the child/youth admit to the sex acts? 	0 Child/youth admits to behavior and expresses remorse and desire to not repeat.
	1 Child/youth partially admits to behaviors and expresses some remorse.
	2 Child/youth admits to behavior but does not express remorse.
	3 Child/youth neither admits to behavior nor expresses remorse. Child/youth is in complete denial.

TEMPORAL CONSISTENCY

Temporal consistency relates to a child/youth's patterns and history of sexually problematic behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long has the child/youth exhibited sexually problematic behavior(s)? 	0 This level indicates a child/youth who has never exhibited sexually abusive behavior or who has developed this behavior only in the past three months following a clear stressor.
	1 This level indicates a child/youth who has been sexually abusive during the past two years OR who has become sexually abusive in the past three months despite the absence of any clear stressors.
	2 This level indicates a child/youth who has been sexually abusive for an extended period of time (e.g. more than two years), but who has had significant symptom-free periods.
	3 This level indicates a child/youth who has been sexually abusive for an extended period of time (e.g. more than two years) without significant symptom-free periods.

HISTORY OF SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR (toward others)

This item rates the quantity of sexually aggressive behaviors exhibited by the child/youth.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many incidents have been identified and/or investigated? How many victims have been identified? 	0 Child/youth has only one incident of sexually abusive behavior that has been identified and/or investigated.
	1 Child/youth has two or three incidents of sexually abusive behavior that have been identified and/or investigated.
	2 Child/youth has four to ten incidents of sexually abusive behavior that have been identified and/or investigated with more than one victim.
	3 Child/youth has more than ten incidents of sexually abusive behavior with more than one victim.

SEVERITY OF SEXUAL ABUSE

This item rates the significance and severity of the child/youth's own sexual abuse history.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the child/youth been sexually abused, either known or suspected? If so, what was the type and intensity of abuse the child/youth endured? If so, who was child/youth's abuser? 	0 No history of any form of sexual abuse.
	1 History of occasional fondling or being touched inappropriately, however, not occurring on a regular basis or by someone in a caregiver capacity, or suspicion of history of sexual abuse without confirming evidence.
	2 This level is to indicate a moderate level of sexual abuse. This may involve a child/youth who has been fondled on an ongoing basis or sexually penetrated (anal or genital) once by someone not in a caregiver capacity.
	3 This level is to indicate a severe level of sexual abuse involving penetration on an ongoing basis by someone either in a caregiver capacity or in close emotional relation to the child/youth.

PRIOR TREATMENT

This item rates the child/youth's experience in and the effectiveness of prior treatment.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the child/youth have any history of treatment for sexual aggression? If so, what type of treatment and what was the effectiveness of each treatment? 	0 No history of prior treatment, or history of outpatient treatment with notable positive outcomes.
	1 History of outpatient treatment which has had some degree of success.
	2 History of residential treatment where there has been successful completion of program.
	3 History of residential or outpatient treatment condition with little or no success.

End of Sexually Aggressive Behavior Module

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#) [\[Return to Core Item List\]](#)

RUNAWAY*

This item describes the risk of running away or actual runaway behavior.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the child/youth ever run away from home, school, or any other place? If so, where did the child/youth go? How long did they stay away? How was the child/youth found? Does the child/youth ever threaten to run away? 	<p>0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> Child/youth has no history of running away or ideation of escaping from current living situation.</p> <hr/> <p>1 <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> Child/youth has no recent history of running away but has expressed ideation about escaping current living situation. Child/youth may have threatened running away on one or more occasions or has a history of running away but not in the recent past.</p> <hr/> <p>2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Child/youth has run from home once or run from one treatment setting. Also rated here is a child/youth who has run home (parental or relative).</p> <hr/> <p>3 <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Child/youth has run from home and/or treatment settings in the recent past and presents an imminent flight risk. A child/youth who is currently a runaway is rated here.</p>

***A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [F] Runaway Module.**

[F] RUNAWAY MODULE

FREQUENCY OF RUNNING

This item describes how often the child/youth runs away.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How often does the child/youth run away? 	<p>0 Child/youth has only run once in past year.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Child/youth has run on multiple occasions in past year.</p> <hr/> <p>2 Child/youth runs often but not always.</p> <hr/> <p>3 Child/youth runs at every opportunity.</p>

CONSISTENCY OF DESTINATION

This item describes whether or not the child/youth runs away to the same place, area, or neighborhood.

	Ratings and Descriptions
<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the child/youth always run to the same spot? 	<p>0 Child/youth always runs to the same location.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Child/youth generally runs to the same location or neighborhood.</p> <hr/> <p>2 Child/youth runs to the same community but the specific locations change.</p> <hr/> <p>3 Child/youth runs to no planned destination.</p>

[\[Return to Table of Contents\]](#) [\[Return to Core Item List\]](#)

SAFETY OF DESTINATION

This item describes how safe the area is where the child/youth runs.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions	
	0	Child/youth runs to a safe environment that meets their basic needs (e.g. food, shelter).
	1	Child/youth runs to generally safe environments; however, they might be somewhat unstable or variable.
	2	Child/youth runs to generally unsafe environments that cannot meet their basic needs.
	3	Child/youth runs to very unsafe environments where the likelihood that the child/youth will be victimized is high.

INVOLVEMENT IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

This item describes what type of activities the child/youth is involved in while on the run and whether or not they are legal activities.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions	
	0	Child/youth does not engage in illegal activities while on run beyond those involved with the running itself.
	1	Child/youth engages in status offenses beyond those involved with the running itself while on run (e.g. curfew violations, underage drinking).
	2	Child/youth engages in delinquent activities while on run.
	3	Child/youth engages in dangerous delinquent activities while on run (e.g. armed robbery).

LIKELIHOOD OF RETURN ON OWN

This item describes whether or not the child/youth returns from a running episode on their own, whether they need prompting, or whether they need to be brought back by force (e.g., police).

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions	
	0	Child/youth will return from run on their own without prompting.
	1	Child/youth will return from run when found but not without being found.
	2	Child/youth will make themselves difficult to find and/or might passively resist return once found.
	3	Child/youth makes repeated and concerted efforts to hide so as to not be found and/or resists return.

INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHERS

This item describes whether or not others help the child/youth to run away.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Are others involved in the running activities?	0 Child/youth runs by themselves with no involvement of others. Others may discourage behavior or encourage child/youth to return from run.
	1 Others enable child/youth running by not discouraging child/youth's behavior.
	2 Others involved in running by providing help, hiding child/youth.
	3 Child/youth actively is encouraged to run by others. Others actively cooperate to facilitate running behavior.

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

This item describes what the child/youth's expectations are for when they run away.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth have realistic expectations when they run away?	0 Child/youth has realistic expectations about the implications of their running behavior.
	1 Child/youth has reasonable expectations about the implications of their running behavior but may be hoping for a somewhat 'optimistic' outcome.
	2 Child/youth has unrealistic expectations about the implications of their running behavior.
	3 Child/youth has obviously false or delusional expectations about the implications of their running behavior.

PLANNING

This item describes how much planning the child/youth puts into running away or if the child/youth runs spontaneously.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth plan when they run away?	0 Running behavior is completely spontaneous and emotionally impulsive.
	1 Running behavior is somewhat planned but not carefully.
	2 Running behavior is planned.
	3 Running behavior is carefully planned and orchestrated to maximize likelihood of not being found.

End of Runaway Module

DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR*

This item includes both criminal behavior and status offenses that may result from child/youth failing to follow required behavioral standards (e.g., truancy, curfew violations, driving without a license). Sexual offenses should be included as criminal behavior. If caught, the child/youth could be arrested for this behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you know of laws that the child/youth has broken (even if the child/youth has not been charged or caught)? Has the child/youth ever been arrested? 	0 <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence or no history of delinquent behavior.
	1 <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History or suspicion of delinquent behavior, but none in the recent past. Status offenses would generally be rated here.
	2 <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Currently engaged in delinquent behavior (e.g., vandalism, shoplifting, etc.) that puts the child/youth at risk.
	3 <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Serious recent acts of delinquent activity that place others at risk of significant loss or injury, or place the child/youth at risk of adult sanctions. Examples include car theft, residential burglary and gang involvement.

***A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [G] Juvenile Justice Module.**

[G] JUVENILE JUSTICE MODULE

Rate the following item using time frames provided in the anchors.

HISTORY

This item rates the child/youth's history of delinquency.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many criminal/delinquent behaviors has the child/youth engaged in? Are there periods of time in which the child/youth did not engage in criminal behaviors? 	0 Current criminal behavior is the first known occurrence.
	1 Child/youth has engaged in multiple delinquent acts in the past one year.
	2 Child/youth has engaged in multiple delinquent acts for more than one year but has had periods of at least 3 months where they did not engage in delinquent behavior.
	3 Child/youth has engaged in multiple criminal or delinquent acts for more than one year without any period of at least 3 months where they did not engage in criminal or delinquent behavior.

Rate the following items within the last 30 days.

SERIOUSNESS

This item rates the seriousness of the child/youth's criminal offenses.

Questions to Consider

- What are the behaviors/actions that got the child/youth involved in the juvenile justice or adult criminal system?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth has engaged only in status violations (e.g. curfew).
- 1 Child/youth has engaged in delinquent behavior.
- 2 Child/youth has engaged in criminal behavior.
- 3 Child/youth has engaged in criminal behavior that places other citizens at risk of significant physical harm.

PLANNING

This item rates the premeditation or spontaneity of the criminal acts.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth engage in preplanned or spontaneous or impulsive criminal acts?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 No evidence of any planning. Delinquent behavior appears opportunistic or impulsive.
- 1 Evidence suggests that child/youth places themselves into situations where the likelihood of delinquent behavior is enhanced.
- 2 Evidence of some planning of delinquent behavior.
- 3 Considerable evidence of significant planning of delinquent behavior. Behavior is clearly premeditated.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

This item rates the level to which the criminal behavior of the child/youth puts the community's safety at risk.

Questions to Consider

- Is the delinquency violent in nature?
- Does the child/youth commit violent crimes against people or property?

Ratings and Descriptions

- 0 Child/youth presents no risk to the community. The child/youth could be unsupervised in the community.
- 1 Child/youth engages in behavior that represents a risk to community property.
- 2 Child/youth engages in behavior that places community residents in some danger of physical harm. This danger may be an indirect effect of the child/youth's behavior.
- 3 Child/youth engages in behavior that directly places community members in danger of significant physical harm.

PEER INFLUENCES

This item rates the level to which the child/youth's peers engage in delinquent or criminal behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the child/youth's friends also engage in criminal behavior? Are the members of the child/youth's peer group involved in the criminal justice system or on parole/probation? 	0 Child/youth's primary peer social network does not engage in delinquent behavior.
	1 Child/youth has peers in their primary peer social network who do not engage in delinquent behavior but has some peers who do.
	2 Child/youth predominantly has peers who engage in delinquent behavior but child/youth is not a member of a gang.
	3 Child/youth is a member of a gang whose membership encourages or requires illegal behavior as an aspect of gang membership.

PARENTAL CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

This item rates the influence of parental criminal behavior on the child/youth's delinquent or criminal behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the child/youth's parent(s) ever been arrested? If so, how recently has the child/youth seen their parent(s)? 	0 There is no evidence that child/youth's parents have ever engaged in criminal behavior.
	1 One of child/youth's parents has history of criminal behavior but child/youth has not been in contact with this parent for at least one year.
	2 One of child/youth's parents has history of criminal behavior and child/youth has been in contact with this parent in the past year.
	3 Both of child/youth's parents have history of criminal behavior.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

This item rates the influence of community criminal behavior on the child/youth's delinquent or criminal behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the child/youth live in a neighborhood/community with high levels of crime? Is the child/youth a frequent witness or victim of such crime? 	0 No evidence that the child/youth's environment stimulates or exposes the child/youth to any criminal behavior.
	1 Suspicion that the child/youth's environment might expose the child/youth to criminal behavior.
	2 Child/youth's environment clearly exposes the child/youth to criminal behavior.
	3 Child/youth's environment encourages or enables the child/youth to engage in criminal behavior.

End of Juvenile Justice Module

FIRE SETTING*

This item refers to behavior involving the intentional setting of fires that might be dangerous to the child/youth or others. This includes both malicious and non-malicious fire setting. This does NOT include the use of candles or incense or matches to smoke or accidental fire setting.

<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the child/youth ever started a fire? • Has the incident of fire setting put anyone at harm or at risk of harm? 	<p>Ratings and Descriptions</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 388 495 430">0</td><td data-bbox="511 388 1485 472"><i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of fire setting by the child/youth.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 483 495 525">1</td><td data-bbox="511 483 1485 598"><i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History of fire setting but not in the recent past.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 609 495 651">2</td><td data-bbox="511 609 1485 724"><i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Recent fire-setting behavior but not of the type that has endangered the lives of others OR repeated fire-setting behavior in the recent past.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 735 495 777">3</td><td data-bbox="511 735 1485 840"><i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Acute threat of fire setting. Set fire that endangered the lives of others (e.g. attempting to burn down a house).</td></tr> </table>	0	<i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of fire setting by the child/youth.	1	<i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History of fire setting but not in the recent past.	2	<i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Recent fire-setting behavior but not of the type that has endangered the lives of others OR repeated fire-setting behavior in the recent past.	3	<i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Acute threat of fire setting. Set fire that endangered the lives of others (e.g. attempting to burn down a house).
0	<i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i> No evidence of fire setting by the child/youth.								
1	<i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i> History of fire setting but not in the recent past.								
2	<i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i> Recent fire-setting behavior but not of the type that has endangered the lives of others OR repeated fire-setting behavior in the recent past.								
3	<i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i> Acute threat of fire setting. Set fire that endangered the lives of others (e.g. attempting to burn down a house).								

***A rating of '1', '2' or '3' on this item triggers the completion of the [H] Fire Setting Module.**

[H] FIRE SETTING MODULE

Rate the following item using time frames provided in the anchors.

HISTORY

This item rates the child/youth's history of fire setting including the number of fire-setting events and the time elapsed between fire-setting events.

<p>Questions to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many times has child/youth started fires? • When did that happen? 	<p>Ratings and Descriptions</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1354 495 1396">0</td><td data-bbox="511 1354 1485 1396">Only one known occurrence of fire setting behavior.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1417 495 1459">1</td><td data-bbox="511 1417 1485 1459">Child/youth has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting in the past year.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1480 495 1522">2</td><td data-bbox="511 1480 1485 1585">Child/youth has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting for more than one year but has had periods of at least 6 months where the child/youth did not engage in fire setting behavior.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1606 495 1648">3</td><td data-bbox="511 1606 1485 1707">Child/youth has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting for more than one year without any period of at least 3 months where the child/youth did not engage in fire setting behavior.</td></tr> </table>	0	Only one known occurrence of fire setting behavior.	1	Child/youth has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting in the past year.	2	Child/youth has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting for more than one year but has had periods of at least 6 months where the child/youth did not engage in fire setting behavior.	3	Child/youth has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting for more than one year without any period of at least 3 months where the child/youth did not engage in fire setting behavior.
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3	Child/youth has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting for more than one year without any period of at least 3 months where the child/youth did not engage in fire setting behavior.								

Please rate the most recent episode of fire setting in the following items.

SERIOUSNESS

This item rates the extent of damage or harm caused by the child/youth's fire setting behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happened after child/youth started fires? What was the extent of the damage? Was any property damaged or were there any injuries? 	<p>0 Child/youth has engaged in fire setting that resulted in only minor damage (e.g. camp fire in the back yard which scorched some lawn).</p> <p>1 Child/youth has engaged in fire setting that resulted only in some property damage that required repair.</p> <p>2 Child/youth has engaged in fire setting which caused significant damage to property (e.g. burned down house).</p> <p>3 Child/youth has engaged in fire setting that injured self or others.</p>

PLANNING

This item rates the child/youth's forethought when engaging in fire setting behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does child/youth plan to set fires or does it spontaneously because the opportunity suddenly presents itself? 	<p>0 No evidence of any planning. Fire setting behavior appears opportunistic or impulsive.</p> <p>1 Evidence suggests that child/youth places themselves into situations where the likelihood of fire setting behavior is enhanced.</p> <p>2 Evidence of some planning of fire setting behavior.</p> <p>3 Considerable evidence of significant planning of fire setting behavior. Behavior is clearly premeditated.</p>

USE OF ACCELERANTS

This item rates the child/youth's use of chemicals and other flammable materials (accelerants) to aid the spread of fire or to make the fire more intense.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has child/youth used accelerants to start a fire, such as gasoline or anything that will help start a fire rapidly? 	<p>0 No evidence of any use of accelerants (e.g., gasoline). Fire setting involved only starters such as matches or a lighter.</p> <p>1 Evidence suggests that the fire setting involved some use of mild accelerants (e.g. sticks, paper) but no use of liquid accelerants.</p> <p>2 Evidence that fire setting involved the use of a limited amount of liquid accelerants but that some care was taken to limit the size of the fire.</p> <p>3 Considerable evidence of significant use of accelerants in an effort to secure a very large and dangerous fire.</p>

INTENTION TO HARM

This item rates the extent to which the child/youth intended to injure others when fire setting.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When child/youth started the fire, did they intend to harm/injure or kill someone? Was child/youth seeking revenge? 	0 Child/youth did not intend to harm others with fire. They took efforts to maintain some safety.
	1 Child/youth did not intend to harm others but took no efforts to maintain safety.
	2 Child/youth intended to seek revenge or scare others but did not intend physical harm, only intimidation.
	3 Child/youth intended to injure or kill others.

Rate the following items within the last 30 days.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

This item rates the level of risk the child/youth poses to the community due to their fire setting behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When child/youth started the fires, did they place other people in the community at risk? Do other people think that child/youth puts them at risk when they start fires? Does child/youth intentionally try to hurt others when they start a fire? 	0 Child/youth presents no risk to the community. They could be unsupervised in the community.
	1 Child/youth engages in fire-setting behavior that represents a risk to community property.
	2 Child/youth engages in fire-setting behavior that places community residents in some danger of physical harm. This danger may be an indirect effect of the child/youth's behavior.
	3 Child/youth engages in fire-setting behavior that intentionally places community members in danger of significant physical harm. Child/youth attempts to use fires to hurt others.

RESPONSE TO ACCUSATION

This item rates the reaction of the child/youth as the child/youth is confronted about their behavior.

Questions to Consider	Ratings and Descriptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did child/youth react when accused of setting fires? Does child/youth feel remorse for their fire setting? 	0 Child/youth admits to behavior and expresses remorse and desire to not repeat.
	1 Child/youth partially admits to behaviors and expresses some remorse.
	2 Child/youth admits to behavior but does not express remorse.
	3 Child/youth neither admits to behavior nor expresses remorse. Child/youth is in complete denial.

REMORSE

This item rates the degree to which the child/youth expresses regret for the behavior.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the child/youth feel responsible for starting that fire?How did the child/youth apologize for what they did?	0 Child/youth accepts responsibility for behavior and is truly sorry for any damage/risk caused. Child/youth is able to apologize directly to affected people.
	1 Child/youth accepts responsibility for behavior and appears to be sorry for any damage/risk caused. However, child/youth is unable or unwilling to apologize to affected people.
	2 Child/youth accepts some responsibility for behavior but also blames others. May experience sorrow at being caught or receiving consequences. May express sorrow/remorse but only in an attempt to reduce consequences.
	3 Child/youth accepts no responsibility and does not appear to experience any remorse.

LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE FIRE SETTING

This item rates the potential for reoccurrence of fire setting behavior in the future.

Ratings and Descriptions	
Questions to Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">How is the child/youth willing to control self to prevent setting fires in the future?	0 Child/youth is unlikely to set fires in the future. Child/youth is able and willing to exert self-control over fire setting.
	1 Child/youth presents mild to moderate risk of fire setting in the future. Should be monitored but does not require ongoing treatment/intervention.
	2 Child/youth remains at risk of fire setting if left unsupervised. Child/youth struggles with self-control.
	3 Child/youth presents a real and present danger of fire setting in the immediate future. Child/youth is unable or unwilling to exert self-control over fire-setting behavior.

End of Fire Setting Module

INTENTIONAL MISBEHAVIOR

This item describes intentional behaviors that a child/youth engages in to force others to administer consequences. This item should reflect problematic social behaviors (socially unacceptable behavior for the culture and community in which the child/youth lives) that put the child/youth at some risk of consequences. It is not necessary that the child/youth be able to articulate that the purpose of their misbehavior is to provide reactions/consequences to rate this item. There is always, however, a benefit to the child/youth resulting from this unacceptable behavior even if it does not appear this way on the face of it (e.g., child/youth feels more protected, more in control, less anxious because of the sanctions). This item should not be rated for children/youth who engage in such behavior solely due to developmental delays.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child/youth intentionally do or say things to upset others or get in trouble with people in positions of authority (e.g., parents or teachers)?
- Has the child/youth engaged in behavior that was insulting, rude or obnoxious and which resulted in sanctions for the child/youth such as suspension, job dismissal, etc.?

Ratings and Descriptions

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | <i>No evidence of any needs; no need for action.</i>
Child/youth shows no evidence of problematic social behaviors that cause adults to administer consequences. |
| 1 | <i>Need or risk behavior that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action based on history, suspicion or disagreement.</i>
Some problematic social behaviors that force adults to administer consequences to the child/youth. Provocative comments or behavior in social settings aimed at getting a negative response from adults might be included at this level. |
| 2 | <i>Action is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</i>
Child/youth may be intentionally getting in trouble in school or at home and the consequences, or threat of consequences, is causing problems in the child/youth's life. |
| 3 | <i>Intensive and/or immediate action is required to address the need or risk behavior.</i>
Frequent seriously inappropriate social behaviors force adults to seriously and/or repeatedly administer consequences to the child/youth. The inappropriate social behaviors may cause harm to others and/or place the child/youth at risk of significant consequences (e.g. expulsion from school, removal from the community). |