

Developmental History

Question to Consider for this Domain: What is the developmental history of the child? **Please rate based on history reported from all sources.**

For Developmental History, the following categories and action levels are used:

0 = A dimension where there is no evidence of any needs.

1 = An identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive activities.

2 = Action or intervention is required to ensure that the identified need is addressed.

3 = Intensive, immediate action is required to address the need.

1. BIRTH WEIGHT - This dimension describes the child's birth weight as compared to normal development.

Questions to Consider

- How did the child's birth weight compare to typical averages?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Child was within normal range for weight at birth. A child with a birth weight of 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) or greater would be rated here.
- 1** Child was born underweight. A child with a birth weight of between 1500 grams (3.3 pounds) and 2499 grams would be rated here.
- 2** Child was considerably under weight at birth to the point of presenting a development risk to him/her. A child with a birth weight of 1000 grams (2.2 pounds) to 1499 grams would be rated here.
- 3** Child was extremely under weight at birth to the point of threatening his/her life. A child with a birth weight of less than 1000 grams (2.2 pounds) would be rated here.

2. PRENATAL CARE - This dimension refers to the health care and birth circumstances experience by the child in utero.

Questions to Consider

- What kind of prenatal care did the biological mother receive?
- Did the mother have any unusual illnesses or risks during pregnancy?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Child's biological mother had adequate prenatal care (e.g. 10 or more planned visits to a physician) that began in the first trimester. Child's mother did not experience any pregnancy-related illnesses.
- 1** Child's mother had some shortcomings in prenatal care, or had a mild form of a pregnancy-related illness. A child whose mother had 6 or fewer planned visits to a physician would be rated here (her care must have begun in the first or early second trimester). A child whose mother had a mild or well-controlled form of pregnancy-related illness such as gestational diabetes, or who had an uncomplicated high-risk pregnancy, would be rated here.
- 2** Child's biological mother received poor prenatal care, initiated only in the last trimester, or had a moderate form of pregnancy-related illness. A child whose mother had 4 or fewer planned visits to a physician would be rated here. A mother who experienced a high-risk pregnancy with some complications would be rated here.
- 3** Child's biological mother had no prenatal care, or had a severe form of pregnancy-related illness. A mother who had toxemia/preeclampsia would be rated here.

3. SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE - This dimension describes the child's exposure to substance use and abuse both before and after birth.

Questions to Consider

→ Was the child exposed to substances during the pregnancy? If so, what substances?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Child had no in utero exposure to alcohol or drugs, and there is currently no exposure in the home.
- 1** Child had either mild in utero exposure (e.g. mother ingested alcohol or tobacco in small amounts fewer than four times during pregnancy), or there is current alcohol and/or drug use in the home.
- 2** Child was exposed to significant alcohol or drugs in utero. Any ingestion of illegal drugs during pregnancy (e.g. heroin, cocaine), or significant use of alcohol or tobacco, would be rated here.
- 3** Child was exposed to alcohol or drugs in utero and continues to be exposed in the home. Any child who evidenced symptoms of substance withdrawal at birth (e.g. crankiness, feeding problems, tremors, weak and continual crying) would be rated here.

4. LABOR AND DELIVERY - This dimension refers to conditions associated with, and consequences arising from, complications in labor and delivery of the child during childbirth.

Questions to Consider

→ Were there any unusual circumstances related to the labor and delivery of the child as baby?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Child and biological mother had normal labor and delivery. A child who received an Apgar score of 7-10 at birth would be rated here.
- 1** Child or mother had some mild problems during delivery, but there is no history of adverse impact. An emergency C-Section or a delivery-related physical injury (e.g. shoulder displacement) to the baby would be rated here.
- 2** Child or mother had problems during delivery that resulted in temporary functional difficulties for the child or mother. Extended fetal distress, postpartum hemorrhage, or uterine rupture would be rated here. A child who received an Apgar score of 4-7, or who needed some resuscitative measures at birth, would be rated here.
- 3** Child had severe problems during delivery that have long-term implications for development (e.g. extensive oxygen deprivation, brain damage). A child who received an Apgar score of 3 or lower, or who needed immediate or extensive resuscitative measures at birth, would be rated here.

5. MATERNAL/PRIMARY CAREGIVER AVAILABILITY - This dimension addresses the primary caretaker's emotional and physical availability to the child in the weeks immediately following the birth. Rate maternal availability up until 3 months (12 weeks) post-partum.

Questions to Consider

→ Was the primary caregiver available to meet the child's needs in the first 3 months after birth?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** The child's mother/primary caregiver was emotionally and physically available to the child in the weeks following the birth.

The primary caregiver experienced some minor or transient stressors, which made her slightly less available to the child (e.g. another child in the house under two years of age, an ill family member for whom the caretaker had responsibility, a return to work before the child reached six weeks of age).
- 1** -----
The primary caregiver experienced a moderate level of stress sufficient to make him/her significantly less emotionally and physically available to the child
- 2** in the weeks following the birth (e.g. major marital conflict, significant post-partum recuperation issues or chronic pain, two or more child in the house under four years of age).

- 3** The primary caregiver was unavailable to the child to such an extent that the child's emotional or physical well-being was severely compromised (e.g. a psychiatric hospitalization, a clinical diagnosis of severe Post-Partum Depression, any hospitalization for medical reasons which separated caretaker and child for an extended period of time, divorce or abandonment).