

Risk Behaviors

Risk behaviors can get children and youth in trouble with authorities/caregivers or put them in danger of harming themselves or others. Time frames for these items can vary and are often different **from the standard 30-day rating window**. Please pay careful attention to the time frames associated with each item.

For Risk Behaviors the following categories and action levels are used:

0 = No evidence of any needs; no reason to believe this item requires action.

1 = An identified need that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive action. This may have been a risk behavior in the past.

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

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

Question to Consider for this Domain: Do the child’s behaviors put him/her at risk for serious harm?
Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days.

26. SUICIDE RISK* - This item is intended to describe the presence of thoughts or behaviors aimed at taking one’s life. This item rates overt and covert thoughts and efforts on the part of a child or youth to end his/ her life.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child ever talked about a wish or plan to die or to kill him/herself?
- Has s/he ever tried to commit suicide?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of suicide ideation.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of, but no recent ideation or gesture.
- 2** Recent ideation or gesture but not in past 24 hours.
- 3** Current ideation and/or intent, or command hallucinations that involve self-harm

*A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on this item will trigger the **Suicide Risk Module**.

27. SELF INJURIOUS BEHAVIOR -This item is used to describe repetitive behavior that results in physical injury to the child or adolescent, e.g. cutting, head banging, etc.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child ever talked about a wish or plan to hurt him/herself?
- Does the child ever purposely hurt him/herself (e.g. cutting)?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of self-mutilating behavior.
- 1** There is a history, suspicion or mild degree of self-mutilation.
- 2** Engaged in self-mutilation that does not require medical attention.
- 3** Engaged in self-mutilation that requires medical attention.

28. OTHER SELF HARM - This item is used to describe and rate behavior not covered by either Suicide Risk or Self-Mutilation, in which the child or youth engages in something that has significant potential to result in physical harm or in intentional risk taking behaviors.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child ever talked about or acted in a way that might be dangerous to him/herself (e.g. reckless behavior such as riding on top of cars, reckless driving, climbing bridges,)?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of behaviors (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that place the child at risk of physical harm.
- 1** There is a history, suspicion or mild behavior (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that places child at risk of physical harm such as reckless and risk-taking behavior that may endanger the child.
- 2** Engaged in reckless or intentional risk-taking behavior (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that places him/her in danger of physical harm.
- 3** Engaged in reckless or intentional risk-taking behavior (other than suicide or self-mutilation) that places him/her at immediate risk of death.

29. DANGER TO OTHERS* - This item rates the child’s or youth’s violent or aggressive behavior. The intention of this behavior is to cause significant bodily harm to others. Reckless behavior that may cause physical harm to others is not rated on this item.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child ever injured another person on purpose?
- Does s/he get into physical fights?
- Has s/he ever threatened to kill or seriously injure another person?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of behavior that could be dangerous to others.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of, or acts of mildly aggressive or threatening behavior.
- 2** Recent aggressive or threatening behavior: e.g. homicidal ideation, physically harmful aggression, or dangerous fire setting, but not within past 24 hours.
- 3** Acute homicidal ideation with a plan, physically harmful aggression, command hallucinations that involve harm to others, or the child set a fire that placed others at significant risk of harm.

*A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on this item will trigger the **Violence Module**.

30. 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. The severity and recency of the behavior provide the information needed to rate this item.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child ever been accused of being sexually aggressive with another child? What happened after that?
- Has the child had sexual contact with a younger child?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of sexually aggressive behavior.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of sexually aggressive behavior (but not within past year) and/or sexually inappropriate behavior within the past year that troubles others such as harassing talk or public excessive masturbation.
- 2** Child engaged in sexually aggressive behavior within the past year but not in the past 30 days.
- 3** Child has engaged in sexually aggressive behavior within the past 30 days.

*A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on this item will trigger the **Sexually Aggressive Behavior Module**.

31. RUNAWAY* - This item describes the risk of running away or actual runaway behavior.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child ever run away from home, school or any other place?
- If so, where did s/he go? How long did s/he stay away? How was s/he found?
- Does s/he ever threaten to run away?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of runaway ideation or behavior.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of running away from home, or other settings, involving at least one overnight absence more than 30 days ago.
- 2** Recent runaway behavior or ideation but not within the past 7 days.
- 3** Acute threat to run away, as manifest by either recent attempts or significant ideation about running away, or the child is currently a runaway.

*A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on this item will trigger the **Runaway Module**.

32. DELINQUENCY* -This item rates criminal behavior (law breaking behavior and juvenile justice issues) for which the child may or may not have been caught. If the has not been caught, but clinical staff are aware of the behavior it should be rated.

Questions to Consider

- Do you know of laws that the child has broken (even if s/he have not been charged or caught)?
- Has the child ever been arrested?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of delinquency.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of delinquency, but no acts of delinquency within past 30 days.
- 2** Recent acts of delinquency.
- 3** Severe recent acts of delinquency that place others at risk of significant loss or injury, or place child at risk of adult sanctions.

*A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on this item will trigger the **Juvenile Justice Module**.

33. FIRE SETTING* - This item describes whether the child intentionally starts fires using matches or other incendiary devices. Malicious or reckless use of fire should be rated here, however fires that are accidental should not be considered fire setting.

Questions to Consider

- Has the child ever played with matches, or set a fire? If so, what happened?
- Did the fire setting behavior destroy property or endanger the lives of others?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of fire setting by the child.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of fire setting but not within the past six months.
- 2** Recent fire setting behavior (during the past six months) but not of the type that endangered the lives of others, or repeated fire-setting behavior over a period of at least two years, even if not within the past six months.
- 3** Acute threat of fire setting. Has 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 will trigger the **Fire Setting Module**.

34. SANCTION SEEKING BEHAVIOR - This rating describes intentional obnoxious social behaviors that a child engages in to intentionally force others to sanction him/her. This item should reflect problematic social behaviors (socially unacceptable behavior for the culture and community in which s/he lives) that put the child at some risk of sanctions. It is not necessary that the child have awareness of the purpose of his/her misbehavior (to provoke sanctions/reactions) in order to be rated here as this behavior is not always conscious/planned behavior. This item should not be rated for children who engage in such behavior solely due to developmental delays or lack of social skill.

Questions to Consider

- Does the child intentionally do or say things to upset others in positions of authority or parents or teachers?
- Has the child engaged in behavior that was insulting, rude or obnoxious and resulted in sanctions for the child such as suspension, job dismissal, etc.?
- Does the child seem to purposely get in trouble by making parents or other adults angry with him/her?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Child shows no evidence of problematic social behaviors that cause adults to sanction him/her.
- 1** Mild level of problematic social behaviors that force adults to sanction the child. Provocative comments or behavior in social settings aimed at getting a negative response from adults might be included at this level.
- 2** Moderate level of problematic social behaviors. Child may be intentionally getting in trouble in school or at home and the sanctions or threat of sanctions that result are causing problems in the child's life.
- 3** Severe level of problematic social behaviors. This would be indicated by frequent seriously inappropriate social behavior that force adults to seriously and/or repeatedly sanction the child. Social behaviors are sufficiently severe (cause harm to others) that they place the child at risk of significant sanctions (e.g. expulsion, removal from the community).

35. HIGH RISK SEXUAL ACTIVITY - This refers to sexual behavior and may or may not involve multiple partners. **Please rate behavior during the past year.**

Questions to Consider

- Is the child/youth sexually active?
- Is the child/youth's sexual activity developmentally normative and healthy?
- Does the child/youth's sexual activity put him/her at risk for abuse, unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Child/youth exhibits no history of sexual behavior beyond what is developmentally appropriate.
- 1** Child/youth has history of high-risk sexual behavior but not in past six months.
- 2** Child/youth engages in high-risk sexual behaviors.
- 3** Child/youth engages in a dangerous level of sexual behaviors, or with partners who are abusive or otherwise physically dangerous.

36. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - This rating describes the severity of exposure to sexual exploitation or victimization. This includes any situation, context or relationship where the child receives something (e.g., food accommodation, drugs and alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money, etc.) as a result of performing, and or others performing on them, sexual activities. **Please rate behavior during the past year.**

Questions to Consider

- Has the child/youth traded sexual activity for goods, money, affection or protection?
- Has the child/youth been a victim of human trafficking?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that the child/youth has been sexually exploited or victimized, or has otherwise seen or been exposed to sexual exploitation.
- 1** There is no evidence that the child/youth has been sexually exploited or victimized, or has otherwise seen or been exposed to sexual exploitation.
- 2** Child/youth has witnessed the victimization or exploitation of a family or friend and/or is a direct victim of sexual victimization or commercial sexual exploitation.
- 3** Child/youth has been exposed to chronic and/or severe instances of sexual victimization, or is a direct victim of commercial sexual exploitation that was life threatening or caused significant physical harm, or is actively being sexually exploited.