

ICAAP 2021

Connecting Children to Medical Care | Pediatric Wellness Assessment Tool

TRAUMA INFORMED ASSESSMENT

The Pediatric Wellness Assessment Tool provides a framework for staff in homeless service settings and other social service providers to have conversations with parents and caregivers about their child's health needs when families are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. The tool is flexible and can be adapted to different service settings to meet the individual needs of families. To implement the tool in a trauma-informed way, service providers should consider the following principles of trauma informed services:

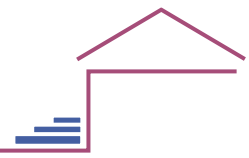
- Physical and Emotional Safety
- Personal Autonomy
- Importance of Relationships
- Cultural Humility
- Impact of Trauma & Resilience



PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL SAFETY

- Pay attention to basic needs (offer water, snacks, baby supplies)
- Emphasize privacy and confidentiality
- Offer a welcoming physical environment, with child-appropriate space
- Explain the purpose of the assessment and how it will be used
- Explain to parents/caregivers the scope and purpose of questions about their child's health
- Be transparent about what assistance you can and cannot provide and follow through with any support offered





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PERSONAL AUTONOMY

- Validate parent/caregiver's role in making decisions about their child's health
- Focus on parent/caregiver's goals for their child
- Allow parent/caregiver to skip questions they are not comfortable answering
- Encourage parent/caregiver to ask questions, offer feedback, and go "off-script" when completing the assessment

IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS

- Recognize that healing happens in relationships
- Allow parent/caregiver to identify staff with whom they are most comfortable discussing stressful or sensitive topics
- Acknowledge parent/caregiver's strengths and accomplishments

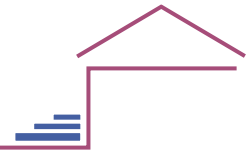
CULTURAL HUMILITY

- Consider culture and spirituality when conducting assessment and service planning
- Be prepared to refer to culturally-appropriate or culturally-specific services

IMPACT OF TRAUMA & RESILIENCE

- Ensure that staff have training about the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Provide parents/caregivers with information about the impact of trauma in childhood
- Connect to trauma-specific treatment when appropriate
- Provide parents/caregivers with strategies to promote resilience in their child





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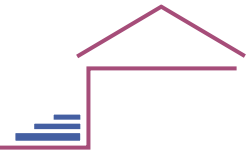
1. GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CARE

- Do you have any health goals for your child? What help would you like in reaching your health goals for your child?
- Does your child take any medications? If so, do you need refills on those medications?
- When was the last time your child was seen by a children's doctor?
- Where do you go if your child is sick?
- Does your child currently have a children's doctor?
 - If no, who provides medical care, including vaccines, for your child?
 - If Yes:
 - Name of pediatric care provider(s) and location(s).
 - Does your child have more than one doctor? If so, do they talk to or know about each other?
 - Are you able to easily obtain information, such as vaccine records, from your child's doctor?
 - Do you understand the information provided by your child's doctor and how to support the health of the child? .



2. BARRIERS TO CARE

- Do you have health insurance for your child?
- Are you satisfied with the medical care your child is receiving?
- How do you get to your child's doctor's appointments? Do you need any assistance with transportation or reminders?
- What problems or difficulties have you had getting to the doctor and/or making appointments?
- Do you need help reading any hospital or doctor's visit materials?



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3. SPECIFIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Allergies

- Does your child have any allergies, including food allergies?
 - If yes, what is the plan to manage allergies (example: medication, allergies reported to day care or school, on record at shelter?)

Asthma

- Is your child currently experiencing coughing, shortness of breath, and/or tightness in the chest?
- Do symptoms occur more than 2 days a week?
- Does your child experience disrupted sleep 2 times or more a week due to coughing, shortness of breath, and/or tightness in the chest?
- Does your child's asthma interfere with their normal activity?

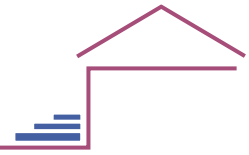
Disabilities and Chronic Conditions

- Does your child have a physically disabling condition?
- Does your child have any chronic health conditions?
- If so, do you feel they have the resources to manage these?

Dental

- When did your child last visit a dentist?





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Development

- Do you have specific concerns about your child's development?
- If your child is 0-5 years of age, what do you know about age-appropriate development milestones?
- Has the child had a developmental screening?
- Do you have any concerns about your child's development?
- Has your child received any early intervention services?
- Has your child had an IEP with his/her school?
- Has your child's school ever reported any educational, behavioral, or developmental concerns?

Immunizations

- Is your child up to date on his/her immunizations and school physicals/check-ups?
- Where do they go for immunizations and school physicals/check-ups?



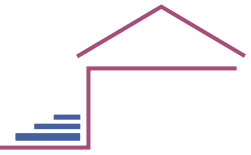
Lead

- Has your child ever been screened for lead?

Emotional/Behavioral

- Do you have any concerns about your child's mental health or behavior? (Examples: recent changes in behavior, child is anxious, withdrawn, aggressive, etc.).
- Has your child ever been treated for mental illness, emotional, or behavior issues?
- Are you interested in any support around your child's mental health?





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Pregnancy/Prenatal Care

- Are you currently pregnant?
 - If yes, do you have access to prenatal vitamins and regular doctor's visits? When was your last doctor's visit?
 - If no, are you planning to have more children? Do you have any questions around reproductive health or birth control?



4. FOLLOW UP

- If parent/caregiver reports any health concerns, please encourage them to speak to their child's primary care physician, or help them get connected to primary care.
- For more information on child development and other topics, please visit The AAP Parenting Website or share this resource with parent/caregiver.
- It may be helpful to share a copy of this questionnaire with parent/caregiver to use in their own conversations with their child's health care provider.

ICAAP's Mission is to promote and advocate for the optimal child, youth and family well-being, and access to quality healthcare

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