

CORE Readiness Assessment



EXTENT OF MALTREATMENT

This question is concerned with the maltreating behavior and immediate effects on a child. It considers what is occurring or has occurred and what the results are (e.g., hitting, injuries, lack of supervision, etc.). The answer to this question also results in a finding/identification of maltreatment (as in an allegation or substantiation of the alleged maltreatment). This question is typically the focus of most hotline reports and investigations. So, it is very important. However relying only on information from this question is inadequate for assessing safety.

Information that answers this question includes:

- Type of maltreatment;
- Severity of maltreatment;
- Description of specific events;
- Description of emotional and physical symptoms;
- Identification of the child and maltreating caregiver;
- Condition of the child.

NATURE OF THE MALTREATMENT: SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES

This question is concerned with the nature of what accompanies or surrounds the maltreatment. It addresses what is going on at the time that the maltreatment occurs or occurred. It serves to qualify the maltreatment by placing it in a context or situation that 1) precedes or leads up to the maltreatment, or 2) exists while the maltreatment is occurring. By selectively "assessing" this element separate from the actual maltreatment, we achieve greater understanding of how serious the maltreatment is. In other words, circumstances that accompany the maltreatment are important and are significant in themselves and qualify how serious the maltreatment is.

Information that answers this question includes:

- The duration of the maltreatment;
- History of maltreatment;
- Patterns of functioning leading to or explaining the maltreatment;
- Parent/legal guardian or caregiver intent concerning the maltreatment;
- Parent/legal guardian or caregiver explanation for the maltreatment and family conditions;
- Unique aspects of the maltreatment, such as whether weapons were involved;
- Caregiver acknowledgement and attitude about the maltreatment and;
- Other problems occurring in association with the maltreatment.

CHILD FUNCTIONING

This question is concerned with the child's general behavior, emotions, temperament, and physical capacity. It addresses how a child is from day to day, rather than focusing on a point in time (i.e., CPI contact, time of maltreatment event). A developmentally appropriate standard is applied in the area of inquiry. This information element is qualified by the age of the child. Functioning is considered with respect to age appropriateness. Age appropriateness is applied against the "normalcy" standard. So, it is critical that you have a working understanding of child development given that you will be considering how a child is functioning in respect to what is expected given the child's age. Among the areas you will consider in information collecting and "assessing" are trust, sociability, self-awareness and acceptance, verbal skills/communication, independence, assertiveness, motor skills, intellect and mental performance, self-control, emotion, play and work, behavior patterns, mood changes, eating and sleeping habits and sexual behavior. Additionally, you consider the child's physical capabilities including vulnerability and ability to make needs known.

Information that answers this question includes:

- General mood and temperament;
- Intellectual functioning;
- Communication and social skills;
- Expressions of emotions/feelings;
- Behavior;
- Peer relations;
- School performance;
- Independence;
- Motor skills;
- Physical and mental health;
- Functioning within cultural norms.

Child 1:

Child 2:

ADULT FUNCTIONING

This information element has strictly to do with how adults (the caregivers) in a family household are functioning. This question is concerned with how the adults (parents/legal guardians or caregivers) in the family household typically feel, think, and act on a daily basis. The question here focuses on adult functioning separate of parenting. We are concerned with how the adults behave regardless of the fact that they are parents or caregivers. The question is concerned with life management, social relationships, meeting needs, problem solving, perception, rationality, self-control, reality testing, stability, self-awareness, self-esteem, self-acceptance and coherence. Remember it is important that recent (adult related) history is captured here such as employment experiences, criminal history, substance use/abuse history, previous relationships, and violence in relationships.

Information that answers this question includes:

- Communication and social skills;
- Coping and stress management;
- Self-control;
- Problem solving;
- Judgment and decision making;
- Independence;
- Home and financial management;
- Employment;
- Citizenship and community involvement;
- Rationality;
- Self-care and self-preservation;
- Substance use;
- Mental health;
- Family and/or domestic violence;
- Physical health and capacity; and
- Functioning within cultural norms.

Caregiver 1:

Caregiver 2:

GENERAL PARENTING

This question explores the general nature and approach to parenting which forms the basis for understanding caregiver-child interaction in more substantive ways. When considering this information element, it is important to keep distinctively centered on the overall parenting that is occurring and not allow any maltreatment incident or discipline to shade your study. Among the issues for consideration within this element are: parenting styles and the origin of the style, basic care, affection, communication, expectations for children, sensitivity to an individual child, knowledge and expectations related to child development and parenting, reasons for having children, viewpoint toward children, examples of parenting behavior and parenting experiences.

Information that answers this question includes;

- Reasons for being a caregiver;
- Satisfaction in being a caregiver;
- Parent/legal guardian or caregiver knowledge and skill in parenting and child development;
- Parent/legal guardian or caregiver expectations and empathy for a child;
- Decision making in parenting practices;
- Parenting style;
- History of parenting behavior;
- Cultural practices; and
- Protectiveness.

Caregiver 1:

Caregiver 2:

DISCIPLINE OR BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Discipline is considered in a broader context than socialization; teaching and guiding the child. Usually, staff focuses on discipline only within a punishment context, so emphasis on the importance of viewing discipline as providing direction, managing behavior, teaching, and directing a child are considered in answering this question. Study here would include the parent's methods, the source of those methods, purpose or reasons for, attitudes about, context of, expectations of discipline, understanding, relationship to child and child behavior, meaning of discipline.

Information that answers this question includes;

- Disciplinary methods;
- Perception of effectiveness of utilized approaches;
- Concepts and purpose of discipline;
- Context in which discipline occurs; and
- Cultural practices.

Caregiver 1:

Caregiver 2:

Core Readiness Assessment

Instructions: Please select one answer for each item.

1. The definition of a safe child is that
☐ A) there are no impending danger threats to the child
☐ B) the caregivers' protective capacities control existing threats
☐ C) there is a child who is vulnerable to impending danger
☐ D) A or B
☐ E) B or C
2. The following is (are) an example(s) of Present Danger
☐ A) an infant child is left alone in a vehicle parked outside a mall
☐ B) a caregiver is perceived as intoxicated and reckless in the presence of a vulnerable child
☐ C) it is discovered that a caregiver has a criminal record relating to domestic violence
☐ D) A and B
☐ E) A and C
3. Which of the following statements best describes the definitions of Present Danger and Impending Danger?
☐ A) Present Danger is immediate, significant, & observable; Impending Danger is imminent
☐ B) Present Danger is immediate but not observable; Impending Danger is a danger pending reports
☐ C) Present Danger is imminent but not observable; Impending Danger is immediate & significant
☐ D) Present Danger is imminent, significant, & observable; Impending Danger is the risk of maltreatment
☐ E) Present Danger is immediate and significant; Impending Danger is also immediate but not significant
4. Which of the following items is not among caregiver protective capacities?
☐ A) Takes action for child
☐ B) Talks about child to co-workers
☐ C) Recognizes child's needs
☐ D) Aligns with child
☐ E) Is emotionally attached to the child
5. Which of the following statements best describes the relationship between Danger Threats and risk factors?
☐ A) All risk factors are Danger Threats, but not all Danger Threats are risk factors
☐ B) All Danger Threats have risk factors, but not all risk factors are Danger Threats
☐ C) Danger Threats are unrelated to risk factors
☐ D) Three risk factors equal one Danger
☐ E) None of the above

6. Which of the following is not part of the danger threshold criteria?
- ☐ A) Vulnerable Child
 - ☐ B) Imminence
 - ☐ C) Severity
 - ☐ D) Observable
 - ☐ E) High Risk
7. What is the purpose of a safety plan?
- ☐ A) Control for danger
 - ☐ B) Have parents promise to keep their children safe
 - ☐ C) Remove children from home
 - ☐ D) Make sure every family has a plan at first contact
 - ☐ E) A and B
8. In which information domain do we describe the caregiver's explanation of how the child was injured?
- ☐ A) Extent of Maltreatment
 - ☐ B) Surrounding Circumstances of Maltreatment
 - ☐ C) Child Functioning
 - ☐ D) Adult Functioning
 - ☐ E) Parenting Discipline
9. In which information domain does the following information belong?
- Gina gets angry at her one year old daughter, Brandi, for wetting the bed. Gina says Brandi has been potty trained since she was less than 9 months old and "she knows better."***
- ☐ A) Extent of maltreatment
 - ☐ B) Surrounding circumstances of maltreatment
 - ☐ C) Adult Functioning
 - ☐ D) Parenting Discipline
 - ☐ E) Parenting General
10. Following completion of a Family Functioning Assessment-Investigation, which cases will be required to be opened for Case Management services?
- ☐ A) Cases in which children are determined unsafe regardless of the level of risk
 - ☐ B) Cases in which children are determined safe but there is low risk
 - ☐ C) Cases in which children are determined safe but there is high risk
 - ☐ D) A and B
 - ☐ E) A and C

11. Which of the following best defines impending danger?
- ☐ A) A child being in a state of danger due to parent/caregiver behaviors, attitudes, motives, emotions and/or situations which poses a specific threat of severe harm to a child
 - ☐ B) An immediate, significant, and clearly observable family condition that is actively occurring or in process of occurring at the point of contact with a family and will likely result in serious harm to a child, therefore requiring a prompt CPS response
 - ☐ C) Negative family conditions and/or circumstances that place a child 'at risk' of maltreatment
 - ☐ D) The point at which a negative family condition gets worse
 - ☐ E) It is the same as present danger
12. Caregiver protective capacities are:
- ☐ A) Family resources
 - ☐ B) General parenting practices including discipline and knowledge of child development
 - ☐ C) Parenting protective factors
 - ☐ D) Parenting styles which support a child's growth and development through the critical milestones of the child's life and into adulthood
 - ☐ E) Personal and parenting behaviors, cognitive, and emotional characteristics which are specifically and directly associated with protecting one's child(ren)
13. Which characteristic of a child is most associated with vulnerability to present and impending danger?
- ☐ A) Calm
 - ☐ B) Dependence
 - ☐ C) Peer interaction problems
 - ☐ D) Assertive
 - ☐ E) Highly visible
14. During preparation for conducting the Family Functioning Assessment- Ongoing, case manager:
- ☐ A) Reviews the CPI Family Functioning Assessment
 - ☐ B) Lists what case plan tasks to discuss with family during introduction
 - ☐ C) Obtains consultation with supervisor
 - ☐ D) A and B
 - ☐ E) A and C
15. Engaging is considered an essential worker skill
- ☐ A) Only for case managers.
 - ☐ B) When families are cooperative
 - ☐ C) For both CPIs and Case Managers
 - ☐ D) Is optional
 - ☐ E) None of the above

16. Sufficient information
____ A) Gives us a full picture
____ B) Tells us everything about a family
____ C) Is relevant to the particular information domain to most accurately inform the safety determination.
____ D) A and B
____ E) A and C
17. Risk of maltreatment means
____ A) Likelihood of future maltreatment when compared with other families with similar characteristics
____ B) Potential severity of abuse or neglect without intervention
____ C) Lack of protective factors which make the child unsafe and in need of intervention
____ D) Children are unsafe and in need of intervention, either through a safety plan or case management
____ E) Case must be opened in order to protect the child
18. The purpose of the Family Functioning Assessment is?
____ A) To determine if children are in present danger.
____ B) To identify the parents caregiver protective capacities.
____ C) To identify families where children are unsafe and are in need of ongoing services.
____ D) To develop case plan outcomes.
____ E) To identify the risk level of families.
19. The focus of the family functioning assessment is?
____ A) The household where alleged maltreatment has occurred.
____ B) The biological parents.
____ C) Wherever the child is at the time of the hotline report.
____ D) The residence of the parents.
____ E) There is no focus for the family functioning assessment.
20. The initial risk assessment is completed?
____ A) When the hotline is received by the CPI.
____ B) For each parent, regardless of their household.
____ C) Only when children are safe.
____ D) At the conclusion of the family functioning assessment-Investigation
____ E) At any time during the assessment.
21. There are ____ Danger Threats
____ A) 8
____ B) 12
____ C) 5
____ D) 20
____ E) 11

22. This danger threat requires that you obtain supervisory approval prior to identifying
____ A) Parent is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously.
____ B) Household conditions are hazardous
____ C) Parent intentionally and willfully acted to cause injuries to the child
____ D) Other
____ E) None of the above
23. This danger threat is primarily only used at present danger and rarely should be considered for impending danger
____ A) Child has serious illness or injury (indicative of child abuse) that is unexplained, or explanations are inconsistent with the illness or injury.
____ B) Other.
____ C) Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is not meeting the child's essential medical needs and the child is /has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.
____ D) Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child; Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.
____ E) All danger threats are both present and impending danger threats.
24. Assessing is
____ A) Timely
____ B) A one-time occurrence to complete the Family Functioning Assessment
____ C) Continual and dynamic
____ D) Record based information collection
____ E) Completed without the family
25. Present Danger can occur at any time.
____ True
____ False
26. What is the primary basis for ongoing case management intervention?
____ A) The parents want services
____ B) Parents' protective capacities are diminished and they are requesting help
____ C) Children are unsafe due to impending danger and diminished protective capacities
____ D) A and B
____ E) B and C
27. The four ages and stages of child development are
____ A) Birth, Baby, Child, Teen
____ B) Baby, Pre-school, Pre-Teen, Teen
____ C) Birth to 3, Pre-School, School Age, Adolescence.
____ D) Birth, School, Teen, Adult
____ E) None of the above

28. The three developmental domains for children are
____ A) Cognitive, Physical, and Social-Emotional
____ B) Education, Learning, and Play
____ C) Ages, Stages, and Development
____ D) Heredity, Environment, and Cognition
____ E) None of the above.
29. What is the most common maltreatment among infants?
____ A) Abandonment
____ B) Neglect
____ C) Abuse
____ D) All the above
____ E) None of the above
30. What are the legislative goals for dependent children?
____ A) Safety, permanency and well-being
____ B) Safety, preservation and reunification
____ C) Stability, preservation and reunification
____ D) Stability, permanence and well-being
____ E) None of the above
31. What is the requirement of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act?
____ A) Allows agencies to remove children without reasonable efforts
____ B) Places the burden on the parents to prove the abuse did not occur
____ C) Mandates minimum timeframes that children must remain in out-of-home care prior to return
____ D) Mandates agencies to demonstrate reasonable efforts prior to removing a child
____ E) Both A and C
32. A child who is being deprived of or is allowed to be deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment may be a victim of
____ A) Abuse
____ B) Neglect
____ C) Harm
____ D) Abandonment
33. Any willful or threatening act that results in physical, mental or sexual injury or harm to a child is considered:
____ A) Abuse
____ B) Neglect
____ C) Harm
____ D) Abandonment

34. If you speak to a child on the telephone and enter a face-to-face contact in FSN, you have
☐ A) Falsified records
☐ B) Recorded a client contact
☐ C) Commenced an intake
☐ D) Violated confidentiality
☐ E) None of the above
35. Which of the following is a type of trauma
☐ A) Terrorism
☐ B) Physical Abuse
☐ C) Natural Disaster
☐ D) Sexual Abuse
☐ E) All of the above
36. Which standard of proof means "the judge has enough evidence to create the belief that significant impairment to the child's safety may occur if the child is left in the home?"
☐ A) Clear and Convincing Evidence
☐ B) Substantial Compliance
☐ C) Preponderance of the Evidence
☐ D) Probable Cause
☐ E) None of the above
37. When a child is exposed to chronic trauma and stress there are significant impacts to their brain development.
☐ True
☐ False
38. Complex trauma exposures involve the following
☐ A) Simultaneous occurrence of child maltreatment
☐ B) Sequential occurrence of child maltreatment
☐ C) None of the above
☐ D) Both A and B
39. What does ACE stand for?
☐ A) Adverse Childhood Experiences
☐ B) Advanced Cognitive Exercises
☐ C) Advanced Cognitive Experiences
☐ D) Adverse Cognitive Experiences
☐ E) Adverse Childhood Exposure

40. Which of the following are examples of long term impacts of trauma?
____ A) Childhood developmental delays
____ B) higher rates of adolescence delinquency
____ C) Increases in adult psychiatric problems
____ D) higher rates of adolescence drug and alcohol use
____ E) All of the above
41. What tool provides a description of and factors to consider for each specific maltreatment?
____ A) Hotline Intake
____ B) Family Functioning Assessment
____ C) Case Plan
____ D) Child Maltreatment Index
____ E) Safety Plan
42. Which is NOT a Special Condition Referral?
____ A) Human Trafficking
____ B) Caregiver unavailable
____ C) Foster care referral
____ D) Child on child sexual abuse
____ E) Both A and D
43. According to Administrative Code, a specific type of injury or harm to a child is a/an
____ A) Maltreatment
____ B) Finding
____ C) Allegation
____ D) Intake
____ E) Indicator
44. Substance abuse:
____ A) May serve as a dis-inhibitor for the parent
____ B) Can lead to illegal activity
____ C) Can drain family resources
____ D) May impair child caring behaviors
____ E) All of the above
45. Domestic Violence is usually an individual, isolated event
____ True
____ False
46. The following is the correct ordering of the stages in the cycle of domestic violence:
Incident, Tension building, Reconciliation, Calm
____ True
____ False

47. Domestic violence and family violence are the same thing
____ True
____ False
48. Domestic violence includes
____ A) Isolation
____ B) Intimidation
____ C) Economic abuse
____ D) Blaming
____ E) All of the above
49. Unsafe in-home cases involving domestic violence requires 2 safety plans
____ True
____ False
50. "You really like going to school, don't you?" This is an example of
____ A) A closed leading question
____ B) Positive reinforcement
____ C) Reframing
____ D) A and C
____ E) All of the above
51. "Tell me about the times he is able to be patient." This is an example of
____ A) A closed question
____ B) Open and exception finding question
____ C) An indirect question
____ D) Use of Summarization
____ E) None of the above
52. An interview goes from general to specific topics
____ True
____ False
53. Which of the following is the best way to begin discussion about a highly sensitive topic
____ A) Use a closed question
____ B) Open and exception finding question
____ C) Use a self-disclosure
____ D) Use an indirect question
____ E) Ask an exception finding question

54. With a pre-school child, which of the following questions are appropriate?
____ A) Tell me about the time dad hit you.
____ B) Which day of the week did your dad hit you?
____ C) Did your dad hit you before or after your mother left?
____ D) Why did your dad hit you?
____ E) All of the above
55. With an 8 year old child, which of the following introductions is appropriate?
____ A) I'm here to talk to you about your father hitting your mother
____ B) Why do you think I'm here?
____ C) My job is to work with children and their families.
____ D) I'm here to make sure you're safe
56. Cultural dynamics of the family can change as the child develops and matures
____ True
____ False
57. Cultural sensitivity means
____ A) You should recognize the perspective of the family so you can help them adjust their communication style to fit your own.
____ B) Be willing to learn about other cultures so that you can compare and contrast them to your own cultural beliefs
____ C) Be aware of cultural differences within family dynamics
____ D) Understand and value their perspective but treat the case like any other case
58. What are the some of the mental illnesses you may encounter as a child welfare professional?
____ A) Anxiety Disorders
____ B) Schizophrenia
____ C) Mood disorders
____ D) A and C
____ E) All of the above
59. Family dynamics are
____ A) Patterns of relating
____ B) Interactions between family members
____ C) Families beliefs
____ D) Family's value system
____ E) A and B
60. Developmental disability is
____ A) Cognitive disability
____ B) Severe disability
____ C) Chronic disability
____ D) A and B
____ E) All of the above

61. People with limited cognitive functioning are more reliant on
____ A) Abstract thinking
____ B) Concrete thinking
____ C) Critical thinking
____ D) Literal thinking
____ E) B and D
62. Least Intrusive means
____ A) We only ask questions that pertain to the incident of alleged maltreatment
____ B) We do not remove children from their homes
____ C) We intervene to protect children in ways that produce the least amount of interference into a family's life as possible
____ D) When removal is necessary, only placing children in foster care
63. The health and safety of the children served by our agencies is
____ A) considered when possible
____ B) of paramount concern
____ C) only considered when there is present
____ D) only considered when there is impending danger