



Strengths and Stressors (SAS)

Instructions:

Each of the following factors may be important to the level of maltreatment or risk of out-of-home placement for this family in the context of family strengths and weaknesses. Consider each factor and the items listed under each factor in terms of its importance in reducing risk of maltreatment or diverting the out-of-home placement of children in this family.

For each factor, rate its importance on a continuum of strength/weakness by selecting the appropriate option. Select each factor at the current point of assessment.

		Serious Stressor	Moderate Stressor	Mild Stressor	Adequate / Community Norm	Mild Strength	Clear Strength
	*** Environment ***						
1	Housing Stability (Pays rent/mortgage on time, has not moved in the last 6 months)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
2	Safety in Community (Safe neighbourhood for children (no problem playing outside), neighbours look out for each other)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
3	Habitability of Housing (Good space and privacy for children, good adequate furnishings in rooms)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
4	Income/Employment (Family has had stable employment in last 6 months, is receiving public assistance)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
5	Financial Management (Stable budgeting, seldom in crisis over money)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
6	Food and Nutrition (Prepares balanced nutritious meals, family eats together whenever possible)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
7	Personal Hygiene (Children look clean and well-groomed, adults look clean and well-groomed)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
8	Transportation (Has access to public transport, has access to private transport)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
9	Learning Environment (Provides age-appropriate toys and games, attention paid to developmental needs of children)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
	*** Social Support ***						
10	Social Relationships (Has frequent interactions with relatives/friends, attends civic and religious activities)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
11	Regular Services (Ability to access available services (childcare, community etc))	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
12	Emergency Services (Has access to emergency help from relatives/friends when in need, knows where to obtain emergency services from community)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
13	Motivation for Support (The family accepts support/services from agencies, the family is willing to accept support from relatives/friends)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
	*** Parental Capabilities ***						
14	Supervision of Children (Provides age-appropriate supervision)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2



		Serious Stressor	Moderate Stressor	Mild Stressor	Adequate / Community Norm	Mild Strength	Clear Strength
15	Disciplinary Practices (Can provide consistent discipline)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
16	Support of Child Development (Provides developmental and enrichment opportunities)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
17	Few mental health problems that affect parenting	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
18	Few physical/medical problems that affect parenting	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
19	Few alcohol/drug abuse problems that affect parenting	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
20	*** Family Interactions *** Bonding with Children (Can effectively communicate with child, affection and harmony with the child)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
21	Expectations of the Child(ren) (Age-appropriate expectation of the child, can tolerate mistakes in child)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
22	Mutual Support (Good emotional supports as a family, can lend support when needed, can resolve conflict and dispute in family)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
23	Marital Relationship (Stable marital relationship in the family)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
24	*** Family Safety *** Absence/Presence of Physical Abuse of Child(ren)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
25	Absence/Presence of Sexual Abuse of Child(ren)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
26	Absence/Presence of Emotional Abuse of Child(ren)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
27	Absence/Presence of Neglect of Child(ren)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
28	Absence/Presence of Domestic Violence Between Parents/Caregivers	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
29	*** Child Well-Being (Child at highest risk) *** Child's Mental Health (Emotional stability, ability to handle stress)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
30	Child's Behaviour (Few management problems at home, few management problems at school, few delinquent behaviours)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
31	School Performance (Good attendance, good academic record)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
32	Relationship with Caregivers (Accepts discipline and supervision, good communication with the caregivers)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
33	Relationship with Siblings (Gets along with siblings) (optional)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
34	Relationship with Peers (Has peers as close friends)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2



	Serious Stressor	Moderate Stressor	Mild Stressor	Adequate / Community Norm	Mild Strength	Clear Strength	
35	Motivation/Cooperation (Is interested in staying with family/caregivers, parents/caregivers are motivated to change behaviour)	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2

Developer Reference:

Berry, M., Cash, S., & Mathieson, S. (2003). Validation of the strengths and stressors tracking device with a child welfare population. *Child Welfare*, 82(3), 293-318.

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