

CANS Rating Windowpane- Scoring Guide

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NEEDS

0 = No Evidence of a Need.



1 = Monitor; Let's Keep an Eye on It or Collect More Information. Suspicion or History of a Need.



2 = Take Action! There is Information that this is an area of Need for the Youth/Family or an area of Need that Continues to Require an Intervention.



3 = ACT IMMEDIATELY!!!!
This is an intensive Need for the Youth/Family that should be addressed right away!



STRENGTHS

0 = CENTERPIECE!
This is the Best Strength for the Youth/Family! I can build an entire plan around this!



1 = Identified Strength.
These are good strengths. Not the best, but good for the youth/family. Let's add these into our plan!



2 = Not Useful Right Now.
We need to build on these in order for them to be Strengths.



3 = Not a Strength.
I have no information about this area or I cannot find anything positive. It could be a weakness for the youth/family.



CANS Rating Windowpane

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool is intended to be administered collaboratively with children and families. The collaborative approach relies on clear communication and a commitment to building consensus among team members. This approach:

- supports more meaningful service planning
- promotes better outcomes for children and families.

As part of the collaborative approach it is important to explain the assessment process and to identify the benefits of completing a comprehensive assessment. Introducing the CANS to a youth and family is an opportunity for the assessor to support engagement. This is done by offering a context for the assessment. The context should validate family participation, clarify roles and emphasize shared planning and decision making. Additionally, an explanation of the “Action” levels will be necessary as part of the assessment or assessment review process for participants who may be new to the CANS. The windowpane is a visual representation of the action levels. It is intended to be a reference for youth and families during the assessment process.