

1. Framework for Practice: Risk Estimation Pre- Birth Risk Assessment Tool

Framework taken from an adaptation by Martin Calder in 'Unborn Children: A Framework for Assessment and Intervention' of R. Corner's 'Pre-birth Risk Assessment: Developing a Model of Practice'.

Factor	Elevated Risk	Lowered Risk
The abusing parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative childhood experiences, inc. abuse in childhood; denial of past abuse. • Violence abuse of others. • Abuse and/or neglect of previous child • Parental separation from previous children • No clear explanation • No full understanding of abuse situation • No acceptance of responsibility for the abuse • Antenatal/post natal neglect • Age: very young/immature • Mental disorders or illness • Learning difficulties • Non-compliance • Lack of interest or concern for the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive childhood • Recognition and change in previous violent pattern • Acknowledges seriousness and responsibility without deflection of blame onto others • Full understanding and clear explanation of the circumstances in which the abuse occurred • Maturity • Willingness and demonstrated capacity and ability for change • Presence of another safe non-abusing parent • Compliance with professionals • Abuse of previous child accepted and addressed in treatment (past/present) <p>Expresses concern and interest about the effects of the abuse on the child</p>
Non-abusing parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No acceptance of responsibility for the abuse by their partner • Blaming others or the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts the risk posed by their partner and expresses a willingness to protect • Accepts the seriousness of the risk and the consequences of failing to protect • Willingness to resolve problems and concerns •

Family issues (marital partnership and the wider family)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship disharmony/instability • Poor impulse control • Mental health problems • Violent or deviant network, involving kin, friends and associates (including drugs, paedophile or criminal networks) • Lack of support for primary carer /unsupportive of each other • Not working together. • No commitment to equality in parenting • Isolated environment • Ostracised by the community • No relative or friends available • Family violence (e.g. Spouse) • Frequent relationship breakdown/multiple relationships • Drug or alcohol abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive spouse/partner • Supportive of each other • Stable, or violent • Protective and supportive extended family • Optimistic outlook by family and friends • Equality in relationship • Commitment to equality in parenting
Expected child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special or expected needs • Perceived as different • Stressful gender issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy baby • Acceptance of difference
Parent-baby relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unrealistic expectations • Concerning perception of baby's needs • Inability to prioritise baby's needs above own • Foetal abuse or neglect, including alcohol or drug abuse • No ante-natal care • Concealed pregnancy • Unwanted pregnancy identified disability (non-acceptance) • Unattached to foetus • Gender issues which cause stress • Differences between parents towards unborn child • Rigid views of parenting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic expectations • Perception of unborn child normal • Appropriate preparation • Understanding or awareness of baby's needs • Unborn baby's needs prioritised • Co-operation with antenatal care • Sought early medical care • Appropriate and regular ante-natal care • Accepted/planned pregnancy • Attachment to unborn foetus • Treatment of addiction. • Acceptance of difference-gender/disability • Parents agree about parenting

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Inadequate housing • No support network • Delinquent area 	
Future plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unrealistic plans • No plans • Exhibit inappropriate parenting plans • Uncertainty or resistance to change • No recognition of changes needed in lifestyle • No recognition of a problem or a need to change • Refuse to co-operate • Disinterested and resistant • Only one parent co-operating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic plans • Exhibit appropriate parenting expectations and plans • Appropriate expectation of change • Willingness and ability to work in partnership • Willingness to resolve problems and concerns • Parents co-operating equally

End