

Child and Parent Observations Report And Key Questions to Ask

Purpose: The Child and Parent Observation tool is designed for use when a child exhibits behaviors such as being combative, detached, or showing signs of mental health or substance abuse challenges. It helps identify potential risk factors and warning signs that may indicate the need for further intervention.

This observation helps identify concerning behaviors, such as nervousness, withdrawal, or aggression, that could suggest underlying issues needing immediate attention. The presence of physical indicators, like the smell of alcohol or dilated pupils, also signals possible substance use. By observing these signs, you can help determine if the child or parent require immediate mental health or substance abuse support to ensure their well-being and safety.

Included are suggested key questions to ask child during the child/parent observation.

Contact us for more information: info@CourtSolutionsOnline.com Or, send a text message: 830-372-4555

Child and Parent Observation Report

(To be completed by the Youth Diversion Coordinator)

1. Does the child appear nervous, withdrawn, or overly aggressive? Yes (Provide details) No
Details: _____

2. Does the parent/guardian appear nervous, withdrawn, or overly aggressive? Yes (Provide details) No
Details: _____

3. Does the child show any signs of drug or alcohol use (smell of alcohol, dilated pupils, etc.)?
Yes (Provide details) No
Details: _____

4. Does the parent/guardian show any signs of drug or alcohol use (smell of alcohol, dilated pupils, etc.)?
Yes (Provide details) No
Details: _____

5. Does the child's behavior suggest a need for immediate mental health or substance abuse intervention?
Yes (Explain) No
Details: _____

6. Does the parent/guardian's behavior suggest a need for immediate mental health or substance abuse intervention?
Yes (Explain) No
Details: _____

Referrals based on Child and Parent Observations:

Does the child need a referral for additional mental health support? Yes No
Details if yes: _____
(Enter the Name of Mental Health Service Provider the child was referred to for clinical assessment)

Does the child need a referral for substance abuse treatment or counseling? Yes No
Details if yes: _____
(Enter the Name of Substance Abuse Treatment or Counseling Service Provider child was referred to for clinical assessment)

Suggested Key Questions to Ask child during the child/parent observation:

General Well-being and Feelings:

"Have you been feeling really sad, angry, or upset lately?"

"Is there something that's been bothering you a lot or making you feel stressed?"

Exploring Harmful Thoughts:

"Have you ever thought about hurting yourself?"

"When you feel really down or angry, do you ever think about hurting someone else?"

"Have these thoughts been happening often?"

Details about the Thoughts:

"Can you tell me more about what you've been thinking when you feel like hurting yourself/others?"

"Do you have a plan for how you would hurt yourself or someone else?"

"When was the last time you felt this way?"

Frequency and Intensity:

"How often do these thoughts come to your mind?"

"Are the thoughts getting stronger or more frequent?"

Triggers and Situations:

"What happens before you start feeling this way? Is there something specific that triggers these thoughts?"

"Do you feel like you can control these thoughts, or do they feel out of control?"

Actions Taken:

"Have you ever tried to hurt yourself or anyone else?"

"Have you done anything to prepare for hurting yourself or others?"

Support and Coping:

"Is there anything that helps you feel better when you're feeling like this?"

"Who do you talk to when you're feeling like this? Do you feel comfortable talking to someone?"

Safety Measures:

"Do you feel safe right now?"

"Is there anything around you that could be dangerous to yourself or others?"

Additional Follow-Up Questions:

"Have you ever talked to someone about how you're feeling, like a counselor or a teacher?"

"What do you think could help you feel better right now?"

Important Considerations:

Stay calm and non-judgmental. The goal is to understand the youth's emotional state and ensure their safety.

Always take suicidal or harmful thoughts seriously. If the youth alerts of a plan or immediate risk is present, immediate intervention from mental health professionals or emergency services may be needed.

It's crucial to follow up with a mental health professional for a comprehensive assessment if during the questionnaire or level two evaluation, the youth expressed self-harm or harmful intent toward others.

If the child does not present a need for an immediate intervention or a referral to a professional for assessment or clinical evaluation and/or treatment, then an educational course that closely matches their Class 'C' offense along with attending a 'Live' Peer Group Mentoring session may be recommended as your diversion strategy.

(List of Educational Recommendations is available on page 38)

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