

Step #3

Four Brain Systems- History Checklist

Parental Risk Factors

That Can Compromise Parents' Ability to Offer Their Child Support

Regulation

- Significant prenatal stressors
- No or poor prenatal care
- History of, or current substance abuse, smoking*
- Teenage pregnancy
- Poor nutrition
- Premature labor
- Multiple births
- Genetic disorder(s)
- Chronic medical condition(s)
- Chronic allergies
- Sleep difficulties
- Rigid or chaotic pattern of arousal energy that is entrenched (hypoalet, hyperalet, flooded)
- Low maternal education
- Few familial financial resources
- Unhygienic environment
- Inadequate food, shelter, or clothing
- Limited community resources
- Physical abuse*
- Physical neglect*
- Sexual abuse*

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Global Questions

Regulation

- Are stress responses adaptive? That is, does a person show adequate recovery?
- Is the person's use of energy efficient and flexible or rigid and chaotic?
- How does the person conserve energy?

Sensory

- How quickly and efficiently does the child/ adult process sensory information?
- How reactive is the child/adult to sensory information from relationships?
- Is the child/adult leaning toward types of sensory information that are considered safe as opposed to those that are threatening?

Parental Risk Factors

That Can Compromise Parents' Ability to Offer Their Child Support

Sensory

- Loss of hearing or vision
- Inaccurate processing of information
- Slow processing of information
- Speech abnormality
- Learning disorder(s)
- Overreactive to sensory information
- Underreactive to sensory information
- Both overreactive and underreactive to sensory information
- Over or under stimulating living environment
- Sensory seeker

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Relevance

- A survivor, participant in, or witness to domestic violence*
- Emotional abuse*
- Emotional neglect*
- History of children removed from home; abuse/neglect of other children
- Multiple children to care for
- Weak commitment to child
- Familial history of mental illness*
- Chronically depressed or anxious
- Rapid swings into high-intensity emotions; low frustration tolerance
- Lack of empathy for self and others
- Difficulty making eye contact and lacking warmth
- Negative appraisal of child as willfully disobeying or as not loving parent
- Parent unable to set boundaries and over-accommodates child
- Discrepancies exist among words, actions, or non-verbal communication
- Learning disruptions
- Inability to ask for help when necessary
- Separation or loss of a parent*
- Parental criminality*

ACE Score /10

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Relevance

- Is the individual able to express a range of positive and negative emotions flexibly?
- How do experiences influence memories and appraisals?
- Are emotionally loving, significant, and long-term relationships present?
- Does the individual tend to attribute positive or negative meanings to experiences?

Executive

- Does child/adult show purposeful movement that is both adaptive and flexible?
- Can child/adult see the big picture?
- Can the child/adult stay on track in expressing a thought, emotion, or narrative?
- Can the child/adult complete tasks in a relatively smooth fashion?

Executive

- Motorically clumsy, awkward, or lethargic
- High distractibility
- High impulsivity
- Unable to delay gratification
- Lacks stable routines
- Adheres to rigid routines and habits, avoiding novelty
- Lack of knowledge concerning normative child development
- Difficulty anticipating the need to sequence and implement agreed-on clinical input
- Lacks a willingness to incorporate a new way to understand a child's behavior (e.g., mental rigidity)
- Is unaware of, or inaccurately judges, own strengths and weaknesses
- Difficulty using hindsight, insight, and foresight for self-reflection and problem solving
- Lacks cause-effect reasoning
- Unable to hold self and others in mind at the same time
- Unable to consider the part in relation to the whole

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Step #3

Four Brain Systems- History Checklist

Child/Youth Risk Factors

That Increase Children's Need for Adult Support

Regulation

- Prenatal maternal stress
- No or poor prenatal care Intrauterine growth retardation or fetal malnutrition
- Toxins in utero
- Premature birth
- Genetic disorder(s)
- Infant medical condition(s)
- Chronic allergies
- Feeding problems
- Poor suck, swallow, and breathe coordination
- Poor nutrition
- Sleep difficulties
- Rigid or chaotic pattern of arousal energy that is entrenched (hypoalert, hyperalert, flooded)
- Physical abuse*
- Physical neglect*
- Sexual abuse*

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Global Questions

Regulation

- Are stress responses adaptive? That is, does a person show adequate recovery?
- Is the person's use of energy efficient and flexible or rigid and chaotic?
- How does the person conserve energy?

Sensory

- How quickly and efficiently does the child/ adult process sensory information?
- How reactive is the child/adult to sensory information from relationships?
- Is the child/adult leaning toward types of sensory information that are considered safe as opposed to those that are threatening?

Child/Youth Risk Factors

That Increase Children's Need for Adult Support

Sensory

- Loss of hearing / vision
- Inaccurate processing of information
- Slow processing of information
- Speech delay
- Learning disorder(s)
- Overreactive, to sensory information
- Underreactive to sensory information
- Both overreactive and underreactive to sensory information
- Institutional care or neglect without adequate sensory information
- Sensory seeker

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Relevance

- Male preterm infant
- A survivor, participant in, or witness to domestic violence*
- Emotional abuse*
- Emotional neglect*
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Traumatic memories
- Lack of emotional care due to foster care or orphanage placement
- Chronically depressed or anxious
- Rapid swings into high-intensity emotions; no frustration tolerance
- Lack of empathy for self and others
- Lack of eye contact absence of interest in others and/or lack of social referencing (overly detached)
- Highly demanding of others
- Over accommodating to others
- Lacks one person in the family who is strongly committed to child and who provides loving care
- Discrepancies exist between words, actions, or non-verbal communication
- Learning disruptions
- Separation or loss of a parent*
- Parental criminality*
- Inability to ask for help when necessary

ACE Score

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Relevance

- Is the individual able to express a range of positive and negative emotions flexibly?
- How do experiences influence memories and appraisals?
- Are emotionally loving, significant, and long-term relationships present?
- Does the individual tend to attribute positive or negative meanings to experiences?

Executive

- Does child/adult show purposeful movement that is both adaptive and flexible?
- Can child/adult see the big picture?
- Can the child/adult stay on track in expressing a thought, emotion, or narrative?
- Can the child/adult complete tasks in a relatively smooth fashion?

Executive

- Motorically clumsy, awkward, or lethargic
- Lacks developmentally appropriate use of gestures to communicate needs and wants
- Lacks developmentally appropriate use of words to problem solve
- High distractibility
- High impulsivity
- Unable to delay gratification
- Lacks developmentally appropriate abilities to sequence activities of daily living
- Adheres to rigid routines and habits, avoiding novelty
- Lacks a willingness to incorporate a new way to understand own or other's behavior (e.g., mental rigidity)
- Is unaware of, or inaccurately judges, own strengths and weaknesses
- Difficulty using hindsight, insight, and foresight for self-reflection and problem solving
- Lacks cause-effect reasoning
- Unable to hold self and others in mind at the same time
- Unable to consider the part in relation to the whole

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