

RISK ASSESSMENT QUALITIES

RISK ASSESSMENT:

- provides a rationale for intervention in family life
- is an attempt to translate present knowledge of abuse/neglect into risk hypothesis
- is an attempt to improve objectivity through the use of standard tools; i.e.- matrices, checklists, etc.
- is a means to provide structure for information gathering
- provides a standardized data base
- is a way in which to make distinctions among types and degrees of child maltreatment
- provides a rationale basis for the allocation of limited resources
- provides a philosophical framework for Children and Youth Services
- is prediction oriented, and therefore prevention focused
- directs worker attention to factors that place children at risk when performing a comprehensive assessment
- identifies cases that might be better served by other community agencies
- serves as a training guide for new staff and other community professionals who are involved in assessment of cases
- provides a standardized method of recording the outcome of an investigation
- provides an objective basis for case planning, closing cases, or other decisions
- establishes the degree of intervention that should be used; i.e.-most intrusive response used in the high risk cases
- provides a comparative means to reassess risk throughout the life of the case

RISK ASSESSMENT CANNOT:

- substitute for professional decision making
- cannot provide a complete data base on which to assess a family
- be confused with treatment of child abuse and neglect
- be used as means to exclude appropriate requests for agency service
- substitute for casework skills
- substitute for training deficiencies

