

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 rational 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
- Provide a complete data base on which to assess a family
- Be confused with treatment of child abuse and neglect
- Be used as a means to exclude appropriate requests for agency service
- Substitute for training deficiencies