

**Child FireRisk Evaluation Form**

(Questions to be asked of Children and Adolescents 3 to 18 Years of Age)

INTERVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

JUVENILE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SEX \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ ETHNICITY/RACE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

**DEVELOPMENT OF RAPPORT**

The purpose of this section is to make the child comfortable with you. The more at ease you can make him, the greater the likelihood that he will answer all of your questions. If the following questions aren't enough, add your own. Questions or language can be modified throughout this form to accommodate the age of the child or adolescent.

A. [Introduce yourself] I'm \_\_\_\_\_ what's your name? \_\_\_\_\_

B. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

C. What school do you go to? \_\_\_\_\_

What grade are you in? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you like your school? \_\_\_\_\_ Are there nice/okay teachers at your school? \_\_\_\_\_

D. What classes/subjects do you like/not like? \_\_\_\_\_

E. What do you do for fun?. Do you have hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Who's your best friend? \_\_\_\_\_

G. What do you like to play/do with your friend? \_\_\_\_\_

H. What do you watch on TV and/or what videos do you watch? \_\_\_\_\_

I. What is your favorite person/show on TV? \_\_\_\_\_

J. What is your favorite video/computer game? \_\_\_\_\_

K. What do you like about that game? [Is there is extreme interest in violence or fire?]

[When rapport is established, determine level of understanding if the child is under 7, or appears to have problems communicating.]

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**DETERMINE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING**

It is often difficult to determine if a young child really understands you. (This section may be skipped if you are interviewing an older child). There may be an age barrier, a language barrier, a learning problem, or sub-normal intelligence. It is fruitless to go through an entire interview unless you are first assured that the child has enough understanding to complete the interview. There are several ways to gauge whether you are on the same "wave length" as the child. The following are suggested ways to do so:

- a. Obtain information from rapport section above:  
By paying close attention to the manner in which a young child responds to the 11 questions above, you can estimate whether he can understand and respond to the other questions in this instrument.
- b. Using crayons/paper as a tool:  
You can ask the child to draw pictures of common objects, his favorite toys, houses, trees and people. Then, ask him to describe what he has drawn. Clear explanations of his drawings and the action taking place in some of those drawings will tell you something about the child's vocabulary and his ability to understand.
- c. Using toys and games:  
Have toys of the appropriate developmental level of the child available. Engage the child in a game with the toys or allow the child free play with the toys. After a while ask the child about the toys and the game he is playing. Inquire about the rules, the purpose, etc. Estimate the child's vocabulary in terms of his ability to complete the interview.
- d. Using puppets:  
Have hand puppets available. Allow the child to set the interaction, with the child playing all parts or with you playing some of the parts. Quiet children can become quite verbal with this approach. Focus on the child's ability to understand your questions during the puppet play and determine if this level of communication is sufficient for continued interviewing.

If you are satisfied that the child has adequate understanding, proceed with the interview.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE ALL ANSWERS BELOW THAT APPLY**

**SCHOOL** [If home schooled skip question 2]

- 1. Do you like school/learning? No (C-2) Yes (C-1)
- 2. Do you listen to your teacher(s) most of the time? No (C-2) Yes (C-1)
- 3. Have there been any problems with your school performance in the last year? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)
- 4. Have you gotten in trouble at school? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

School- Column 1		School- Column 2		School- Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PEER ISSUES**

- 5. Do you get along with most of your friends? No (C-2) Yes (C-1)
- 6. Do you get picked on? (C-2) or are you accepted by peers (C-1)
- 7. Do you have as many friends as you want? No (C-2) Yes (C-1)

8. Do you want to be alone or with other kids? Alone (C-2) With Kids (C-1)

9. Do you think your friends are a bad influence on you? (C-2) or a good influence (C-1)

Peers- Column 1		Peers -Column 2		Peers -Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**BEHAVIOR ISSUES**

10. Do you get in trouble a lot outside of school? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

11. Do you usually not do things that you are asked to do? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

12. Have you ever stolen or shoplifted? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

13. Have you lied a lot, ever? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

14. Have you ever used drugs, alcohol, or inhalents? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

15. Have you ever beat up or hurt others? Yes (C-2) or (C-3) No (C-1)

Behavior- Column 1		Behavior- Column 2		Behavior- Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY ISSUES**

**circle all that apply but only score the most severe response for each question]**

16. Do you like going home? Yes No Why \_\_\_\_\_

17. Usually, how well do you get along with your mother (female caregiver)?  
always get along (P-1) usually get along (P-1) sometimes get along (P-2)  
don't get along very often (P-2) never get along (P-3)

18. Do you fight or argue with your mother?  
always (P-3) usually (P-2) sometimes (P-1) rarely (P-1) never (P-1)

19. Are you afraid of your mother?  
always (P-3) usually (P-2) sometimes (P-2) rarely (P-1) never (P-1)

20. Usually, how well do you get along with your father (male caregiver)?  
always get along (P-1) usually get along (P-1) sometimes get along (P-2)  
don't get along very often (P-2) never get along (P-3)

21. Do you fight or argue with your father?  
always (P-3) usually (P-2) sometimes (P-1) rarely (P-1) never (P-1)

22. Are you afraid of your father?  
always (P-3) usually (P-2) sometimes (P-2) rarely (P-1) never (P-1)

23. Do your mother and father fight? [have child elaborate on the fights] \_\_\_\_\_  
always (P-3) usually (P-2) sometimes (P-1) rarely (P-1) never (P-1)

24. Tell me about your brothers and/or sisters. Usually, how well do you get along with them?  
always get along (P-1) usually get along (P-1) sometimes get along (P-2)  
don't get along very often (P-2) never get along (P-3)

25. Do you see your mom as much as you'd like? No (P-2) Yes (P-1)
26. Do you see your dad as much as you'd like? No (P-2) Yes (P-1)
27. What do you do that gets you into trouble at home? \_\_\_\_\_
28. What happens at home when you get in trouble?
- grounded (P-1)                      physical punishment (P-1) or (P-2)                      nothing (P-2)
- talked/lectured (P-1) or (P-2)                      sought outside help (P-1)                      yelled (P-1) or (P-2)
- abused (P-2) or (P-3)                      other (P-1) or (P-2) Explain \_\_\_\_\_
29. Do you get spanked/punished too much? Yes (P-2) No (P-1) If so, by whom \_\_\_\_\_

Family- Column 1		Family- Column 2		Family- Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CRISIS OR TRAUMA**

30. Within the last year has anything bad happened in your life? Yes (C-2) or (P-2) No (C-1)  
What? \_\_\_\_\_
31. Has there been an ongoing (chronic) crisis/problem in your life or in the family?  
Yes (C-2) or (P-2) No (C-1)
32. Was the fire set after:
- family fight (C-2)                      being angry at sibling (C-2)                      being angry with boss (C-2)
- being angry with school authority (C-2)                      being angry at another (C-2)
- other crises such as stress, death, depression (C-2) or (C-3) or (P-2) or (P-3)                      None
- What? \_\_\_\_\_

C or T- Column 1		C or T- Column 2		C or T- Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FIRE HISTORY**

33. Do you like to look at fire for long periods of time? Yes (C-2) or (C-3) No (C-1)
34. Do you dream about fires at night? Yes (C-2) or (C-3) No (C-1)
35. Do you think about or day dream about fires in the day? Yes (C-2) or (C-3) No (C-1)
36. Number of past (inappropriate) fires or fireplay incidents \_\_\_\_\_1 (C-1) \_\_\_\_\_2-3 (C-2) \_\_\_\_\_4+ (C-3)
37. Tell me about all the fires that you started or your fire play before this one. [Use a common time frame i.e. Christmas, school starting, etc. to help child describe when fires were started or fireplay occurred]

What Set	Date Set	Where Set	With Whom	Ignition Source	Accelerant if used
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

38. Do you feel the need to set fires over and over again? Yes (C-2) or (C-3) No (C-1)

39. If fires are more than 1 ask, do you always set your fires in exactly the same way? Yes No

Fire Hx- Column 1		Fire Hx- Column 2		Fire Hx- Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRESTART OR FIREPLAY**  
 [circle all that apply but only score the most severe response for each question]

40. Tell me about how you think the fire/fire play started?

Admits/confesses (C-1)      denies or minimizes (C-2)      denial then truth (C-1)

41. What did you use to set the fire or start the fire play?

matches      lighter      flammable liquid/aerosol      fireworks

other (butane torch, flare, stove, pilot light)      What? \_\_\_\_\_

42. How did you get the (above) ignitor to start the fire or the fire play?

went out of way to acquire (C-2)      found it (C-1)      hidden stockpile (C-2)

readily available at home (P-2)      another child had material (C-1)

43. What was set on fire?

object of little or no value (C-1) or (C-2)      object of value to child (C-2)

object of value to others (C-2)      part of a building (C-2)

people, animals, self (C-3)      flammable liquids/aerosols (C-3)

fireworks (C-2)      wildland (C-2) or (C-3) intentional= C-3

paper, tissue, cardboard, twigs (C-1)      bedding/bed-child's own (C-2)

bedding/bed-someone else's (C-2)      clothing-child's own (C-2)

clothing-someone else's (C-2)      toys (C-2)

furniture (C-2)      trash, leaves, grass (C-2) animals (C-3)

matches only (C-1)      lighter only (C-1) insects (C-2)

44. Where was the fire set or did the fire play occur?

home-occupied (C-3)

other structure-occupied (C-3)

home-unoccupied at time (C-2)

other structure-unoccupied at time (C-2)

other residence-occupied (C-3)

vacant structure (C-2)

other residence-unoccupied at time (C-2)

vehicle (C-2)

school-occupied (C-3)

dumpster (C-2)

school-unoccupied at time (C-2)

wildland (C-2) or (C-3)

outside (C-2)

45. Did you intend to set the fire? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

46. What do you think made you want to start the fire or the fire play/what happened?

to express anger (C-2)

to see it burn (C-2)

bored (C-2)

to show power or control (C-2)

didn't want to (accident or curiosity) (C-1)

reaction to stress (C-2)

from peer pressure (C-2)

to destroy something (C-2)

to hurt self (C-3)

to hurt others (C-3)

to get attention (C-2)

don't know (C-2)

rebellion - was told not to do so (C-2)

47. Did you drink or take any drugs before, during or after the fire or fire play? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

48. What did you do after the fire or fire play started?

put it out (C-1) or (C-2)

called for help (C-1)

ran away [if appropriate] C-1 else (C-2)

stayed and watched (C-2) or (C-3)

panicked (C-1)

tried to extinguish (C-1) or (C-2)

other (C-1) or (C-2) or (C-3)

49. How did your parents punish you for the fire?

grounded/restricted (P-1)

physical punishment (P-1) or (P-2)

nothing (P-1) or (P-2)

talked/lectured (P-1) or (P-2)

sought outside help (P-1)

yelled (P-1) or (P-2)

abused (P-2) or (P-3)

other (P-1) or (P-2) Explain \_\_\_\_\_

50. Did the fire or fires you started make you happy or make you laugh? Yes (C-2) No (C-1)

51. Can fire do magical, special or miraculous things? Yes (C-2) or (C-3) No (C-1)

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

52. After the fire how did you feel?

happy (C-2) nervous (C-1) sad (C-1) powerful (C-2) angry (C-2)  
hateful (C-2) vengeful (C-2) scared (C-1) remorseful (C-1) elated (C-3)  
guilty (C-1) ashamed (C-1) excited (C-3)  
aroused sexually (C-3) aroused sensually (C-3) curious (C-2)

C.O.F.- Column 1		C.O.F.- Column 2		C.O.F.- Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OBSERVATIONS**

53. Are child's behavior and mannerisms:  
normal (C-1) troubled (C-2) very troubled (C-3)
54. Is the child's mood:  
normal (C-1) troubled (C-2) very troubled (C-3)
55. Is the child's way of thinking:  
normal (C-1) troubled (C-2) very troubled (C-3)
56. Are there signs of abuse? Yes (P-2) or (P-3) No (P-1) Explain \_\_\_\_\_
57. Are there signs of neglect? Yes (P-2) or (P-3) No (P-1) Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Observ.- Column 1		Observ.- Column 2		Observ.- Column 3	
C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Transfer the information you placed in Summary Boxes 1-8 to the Summary of Child Interview Form below. Then total each column and put the sum at the bottom.

SUMMARY OF CHILD INTERVIEW						
	C-1	P-1	C-2	P-2	C-3	P-3
School Issues						
Peer Issues						
Behavior Issues						
Family Issues						
Crisis or Trauma						
Fire History						
Characteristics of Firestart/play						
Observations						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

Now that you have all the totals, use the totals to compute the percentages according to the formulae below.

**Child Risk**

$$C-2 + C-3 \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}\%$$

$$C-1 + C-2 + C-3$$

**Total Risk**

$$C-2 + P-2 + C-3 + P-3 \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}\%$$

$$C-1 + P-1 + C-2 + P-2 + C-3 + P-3$$

**Family Risk**

$$P-2 + P-3 \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}\%$$

$$P-1 + P-2 + P-3$$