

# A PEDIATRICIAN'S GUIDE TO USING THE WHOLE CHILD ASSESSMENT (WCA)

## #1 Use the WCA to guide the history

- Follow-up flagged (right-side) high risk responses
- Follow-up “unsure” responses

## #2 Notice who completed the form

## #3 Review domains in suggested order

- Interval history then to
- Safety then
- Substances...

## #4 Use opportunities to counsel on resilience

- Advise that meeting basic needs starts with establishing a feeling of safety at home
- Support caregiver resilience (self-care)
- Praise patient & family strengths
- Encourage social connections for the whole family
- Focus parenting on the development of safe, stable and nurturing relationships

## # Address Safety Concerns First

ACE questions	Suggested responses
On average, how difficult was it for your family to meet expenses for basic needs like food, clothing, and housing in the <b>last year</b>	Share basic need resources.e.g. <b>ACES smart te t</b>
Has your child <b>ever</b> lived with a parent or other adult who physically hurt the child in anger  <b>Relationships:</b> Do you know or are you concerned that anyone touched your child, or forced your child to touch that person, in a <b>se ual way</b>	If <b>current-</b> safety plan and PSreport if concern for child safety If <b>past-</b>
Has your child (as a baby or when older) <b>ever</b> seen or heard adults in the home pushing, hitting, kicking, <b>OR</b> physically threatening each other	e.g. <b>ACES smart te t</b>

## # Address Substance Use Mental Health

ACE questions	Suggested responses
Has a parent or household member <b>ever</b> had a problem with drugs <b>OR</b> alcohol	Can you tell me more about this how has this (alcohol or drug use) impacted your relationship with your child If <b>past or current treatment</b> a rrm If <b>current</b> concern,  e.g. <b>ACES smart te t</b>
In the past year, how many times have you had or more drinks containing alcohol in <b>one day</b>	
Over the past <b>2 wee s</b> how often have you been bothered by .. <b>PH 2</b> (depression, <b>GAD2</b> (an iety) For caregiver age 0- , Adolescent 12-	Can you tell me more about this If <b>past or current treatment</b> a rrm If <b>current</b> concern,  e.g. <b>ACES smart te t</b>
Has a parent or household member <b>ever</b> been depressed, mentally ill, <b>OR</b> suicidal	

## # Address Relationships

ACE questions	Suggested responses
Has a parent or household member get arrested, deported, go to prison, jail, or another correctional facility during your child's lifetime	Normal e the need for support
Does your family look out for each other, feel close to each other, and support each other	Share parenting resources.e.g. <b>ACES smart te t</b>
Are your child's parents separated, divorced, or not living together	
Do you find you need to hit or spank your child	Encourage healthy strategies for stress management-
Do you find you need to shout or yell at your child	
Do you feel your child is difficult to take care of	Share parenting resources.e.g. <b>ACES smart te t</b> Review <b>lifestyle</b> (sleep, e exercise, nutrition, dental) to emphasize additional strategies for stress management

## # Consider Diagnoses ( maybe Problem List)

GENERAL	Stress at home	43	RELATIONSHIPS	History of se ual abuse in childhood	62 810
	caregiver stress/mental healthsx	63		Incarceration/parent or household member	1
	In foster care	62 21		History of neglect in child,unloved, uncared for	62 812
<b>SAFET</b>	Exposure of child to domestic violence	63		Problem related to primary support group/family never close	63
	History of physical abuse in childhood	62 819		Parent-child conflict or relational problem/child difficult, yell or spank	62 82
<b>SU STANCES</b>	Screening for alcohol problem/more than drinks in a day	13 39			
	Alcoholism or Alcoholism and drug addiction in family	63 72			
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>	Family history depression	81			

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For scoring and references, see: <https://luch.org/health-professionals/whole-child-assessment-wca>