S.A.F.E.R. kids

100

framework

prompts & templates

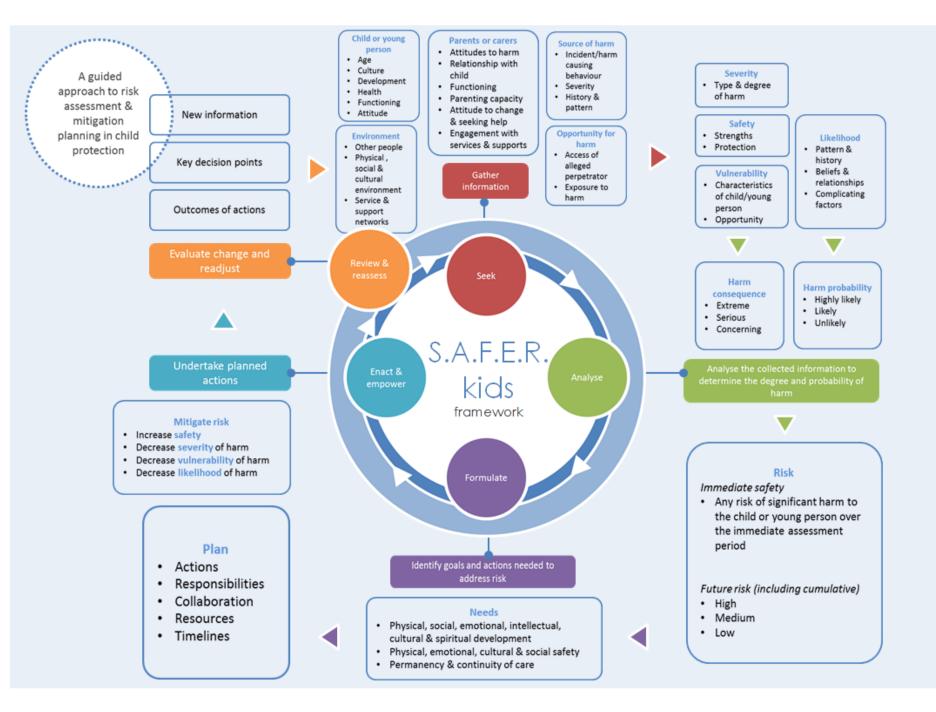


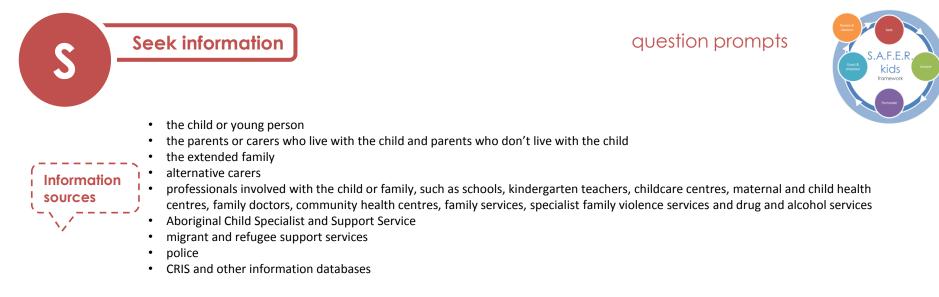


F formulate









Engagers



- What is the child's name, gender and date of birth?
- Does the child or their parents or carers identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
- Where does the child usually live? Who do the child usually live with? Is the child or young person in out-of-home care?
- Does the child go to childcare or school? If so, where?
- Who are the child's parents or carers?
- Which language is usually spoken at home? Is an interpreter required for the child or their parents or carers?
- Where was the child born and where were the parents or carers born? When did they first arrive in Australia and in Victoria?
- What cultural background does the child or their parents or carers identify with?
- Has the child or any of their siblings been involved with child protection before?

- How are things at home?
- Are you afraid of anyone at home?
- Who do you go to ask for help and support?

question prompts



About the source of harm

Seekers

- What has happened to the child to make you concerned?
- Where is the child now? What condition are they in?
- Has there been any previous incidents or other concerns you've had about the child?
- What do you think might happen in the future?
- Has anyone witnessed incidents of harm towards the child or heard about them from others?
- Has the child disclosed abuse themselves? What did they say and to whom?
- How long have you been concerned? How have your concerns changed over time?

About the opportunity for harm

Seekers

- Who do you think is responsible for your concerns?
- What do you know about them?
- What is their relationship with the child like?

Delvers

- Is the alleged perpetrator the primary carer for the child?
- Does the alleged perpetrator accept responsibility for their role in the abuse? How do they demonstrate this?
- Is the primary carer (if not the perpetrator) able to accept their parental responsibility towards the child? Are there alternative carers within the family systems?
- Has the alleged perpetrator ever been investigated, charged or convicted of violent behaviour or any criminal behaviour?

Delvers

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- Is there any indication of physical injury to the child? Was medical help sought? When?
- Are there prior notifications? How many? What was the nature of these contacts? What was the outcome? Viewed together does the picture change?



question prompts



About the Child or young person

Seek information

Seekers

- How would you describe the child's health?
- Does the child have any ongoing health or physical problems?
- Are there any concerns about the child's learning, development and behaviour?
- Has the child's or young person's behaviour significantly changed recently?
- Has the child reached their developmental milestones?
- Has the child been assessed for an intellectual disability, developmental delay or learning disability? If so, what was the outcome?
- How would you describe the child's behaviour and emotional wellbeing?
- Are there any concerns about the child or young person's psychological health?
- Has the young person talked of suicide/attempted suicide?
- Has the young person been diagnosed with a mental illness?
- What are the child's wishes about the situation?
- Has the child experienced any family events that they may have been affected by? How were they impacted by the events?
- Does the child go to childcare, early childhood education or school? Does the young person go to school or work?
- Has the young person engaged in offending behaviour? Have they been involved with police or criminal proceedings?
- Is the young person involved with known or suspected sex offenders?

Delvers

- Has the child previously experienced mental health issues? Did the child receive medical or psychological treatment or support? What was the outcome?
- Has the child attended any maternal and child health services? If so, when and where?
- Has the child been admitted to hospital? If so, when, where and why?
- Has the child experienced alcohol or other drug problems? Did the child receive medical or psychological treatment or support? What was the outcome?
- Has the child experienced or witnessed violence?
- Was the child born drug dependent, premature, with a birth defect, chronic illness or developmental delay?
- Does the child cry frequently or is difficult to comfort?
- Does the child have difficulty feeding, toileting or a difficult temperament?
- Does the child or young person exhibit any acting-out behaviour, such as running away, risk-taking and rule breaking?
- Has the child experienced separation or re-partnering of parents, death of a relative or friend, serious illness of parents, siblings, relatives or friends, parent's loss or change of job, move to a new house or school or a new baby, child or adult in the house? If so, how significantly did any of these events affect them?

Seek information

question prompts



About the parents or carers

Seekers

- Have other children been subject to protective orders, been removed or died in the parents or carers care?
- Have any of the child's parents or carers experienced any events that they may have been significantly affected by? How were they impacted by the events?
- Have the parents or carers made efforts to address the situation? What was the outcome?
- What is the parent's or carer's relationship like with the child and any siblings? How do they describe it?
- What is the parent's or carer's view of their relationship with their partner?
- What cultural or religious views or practices does the parent follow? Do any of these impact on the child's, siblings' or other parent's safety and wellbeing?
- Can the parent or carer provide an explanation for any harm indicated towards the child or any limits to their ability to carer for the child? Is this consistent with evidence about what has or is happening?
- Who do the parents or go to ask for help or support?
- How well do the parents or carers engage with services or professionals in their community?
- Does the parent or carer experience any mental health issues?
- Is there a physical/emotional/intellectual disability impacting on ability to meet the child's basic needs?

Delvers

- How do the parents or carers act towards the child or their siblings? How do the parents or carers discipline the child and their siblings?
- Have any of the child's parents or carers been admitted to hospital? If so, when, where and why?
- Have any of the child's parents or carers experienced alcohol or other drug problems? Did they receive medical or psychological treatment or support? What was the outcome?
- Have any of the child's parents or carers experienced or witnessed violence?
- Does either parent or carer have a history of institutional care, abuse or neglect as a child?
- Have any of the child's parents or carers experienced mental health issues? Are they or have they received medical or psychological treatment or support? What was the outcome?
- Have any of the child's parents or carers experienced gambling problems? Are they or have they received support? What was the outcome?
- Do the parents or carers demonstrate an inability to control their impulses and anger? What does the carer do when they get angry at the child or siblings?
- Has there been any periods of separation between the child and their parents or carers?

Seek information

question prompts



About the child's environment

Seekers

- Are there other adults in the household or network with carer-type responsibilities for the child or young person?
- Are any adults who have carer-type responsibilities for the child or young person engaging in risk taking or other dangerous behaviours?
- Is the child or young person's primary peer or social groups engaged in risk taking or other dangerous behaviours?
- Are any other agencies involved with the child or family?
- What is the home environment like?
- What are the child's sleeping arrangements?
- What is a typical day like for the family? With whom does the child spend most of their time?
- What does the family do for fun?
- Is the family isolated or supported?

Delvers

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- How do the parents or carers interact with their neighbours and others in the community?
- How do services and professionals respond to the child or family?
- Does the family have formal (agencies) or informal (kin and friends) support system? Are the support systems enacted? Do the children have any allies in the system?





Source of harm

History and pattern

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Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Previous reports to child protection			
Previous incidents of maltreatment unreported to child protection			
Pattern of escalating or cumulative harm			
Child reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver			

Opportunity for harm

Access of alleged perpetrator

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Alleged perpetrator has access to child			
Alleged perpetrator has been investigated, charged or convicted of violent behaviour			
Alleged perpetrator is denying, minimising or otherwise not taking responsibility for abuse			

Exposure to harm

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Child reports harm experienced			
Experience of or exposure to family violence by child			
Experience of or exposure to family violence by siblings			
Experience of or exposure to family violence by parents or carers			
Constant or escalating exposure of child or young person to inadequate protection or care in the family home			



Letter Child or young person

Age			
Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
12 months or younger			
Culture			
Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Child has lack of cultural or community connections and networks			

Exposure to harm

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Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Low social competence			
Poor academic performance			
Child or young person is frequently absent from school, early childhood education or care			
Child or young person shows extremes in behaviour, such as overly compliant or demanding behaviour, extreme passivity, or aggression			
Child or young person is delayed in intellectual, psychological, physical or emotional development			
Child or young person is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example)			

Attitude

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Child seems frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home			
Responses to professionals or services are unusual, unexpected, or developmentally inappropriate			



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Child or young person

Health Risk Indicated Verified Evidence Condition (congenital or acquired) with complex medical and high care needs Malnutrition, poor weight gain or nutrition Self-harming behaviour or attempted suicide Bruises in the shape of a hand, grip, teeth mark, ligature, stick, or implement without or with inadequate explanation Lacerations, cuts, abrasions, and scars without or with inadequate explanation Injury (thermal, cold, intracranial, spinal, visceral or oral) or fractures Anogenital signs and symptoms or sexually transmitted infection Pregnancy Poisoning or other life-threatening event Fabricated or induced illness Emotional state inconsistent with age and developmental stage and unexplained by medical conditions, neurodevelopmental disorders, and known stressful situations Child or young person demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behaviour inconsistent with age and development Child or young person reports nightmares or bedwetting inconsistent with age and development Child or young person abuses alcohol or other drugs Frequent attendance at emergency departments and/or hospital admission Unusual pattern of presentation to, and contact, with healthcare providers Child or young person has poor hygiene or is consistently dirty and has severe body odour





L Child or young person

Functioning

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Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Child or young personal has a disability			
Displays behavioural problems or challenging behaviour (such as hyperactivity, aggression, soiling, wetting or running away)			
Behavioural disorders or abnormalities inconsistent with age and developmental stage			
Marked changes in behaviour or emotional state inconsistent with age and developmental stage (such as extreme distress, withdrawal from communicating)			
Repeated extreme or sustained emotional responses that are disproportionate to the situation, inconsistent with age and developmental stage			
Dissociation unexplained by a known traumatic event			
Attachment problems (anxious, avoidant or unresponsive)			
Child or young person involved with police or youth justice			



Seek information

risk indicators



Parents or carers

Attitudes to harm

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Parent offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for alleged harm			
Parent is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child's problems			
Parent is secretive and isolated			
Parent is jealous or controlling with family members			

Relationship with child

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Parental perception of child as problem			
Parent blames, belittles, or berates the child, or describes the child as "evil," or in some other very negative way			
Parental negativity or hostility towards a child or young person			
Parental rejection or scapegoating of a child or young person			
Parental use of violence, corporal punishment or harsh physical discipline with the child			
Child excluded by parents or carers			
Parent displays high criticism and low warmth			
Partner resents the child or other not biological child			
Parent has inappropriate or unrealistic expectations of child			
Parent fails to give child boundaries for behaviour			
Parent is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex			



Parents or carers

Seek information

FunctioningRiskIndicadVerifiedEvidenceParental mental health issues compromising functioningIIIIntelectual, cognitive or physical disability compromising functioningIIIParental presentation with anxiety, psychopathy or depressionIIIParental presentation with anxiety, psychopathy compromisingIIIParental presentation with anxiety, psychopathy compromisionIIIParental psychopathy compromisionIIIIParental psychopathy compromisionIIIIParental psychopathy compromisionIIIIParental psychopathy compromisionIIIIParental psychopathy compromisionIIIIParental psychopathy compromisionIII</

Parenting capacity

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Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Poor provision of care or basic needs or parental unwillingness or incapacity to meet the practical or physical care needs of children			
Extended parental absences or limited appropriate supervision of child by parent			
Parent frequently leaves child to care for other children			
Parental misuse of drugs and alcohol			
Child or young person lacks sufficient clothing			
Failure to promote the child's appropriate socialisation (for example, involving children in unlawful activities, isolation, not providing stimulation or education)			
History of poor parenting			
Parental criminal justice involvement			



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Seek information

Attitude to change and seeking help

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Parental unwillingness or incapacity to make and sustain changes to act protectively			
Parental hostility towards or passive minimal cooperation with services			
History of service interventions that have not resulted in any sustained improvement			
Parent failing to provide access to appropriate medical care or treatment			
Aggressive or threatening behaviour towards professionals			

Engagement with services and supports

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Parental history of prior involvement with child protection both as children themselves and in relation to other children born to them			
Other children removed from parent's care			
Parental refusal or resistance to service involvement and failure to engage with services			
Pattern of missed appointments or avoidance of service providers			
Parental refusal to let health professionals speak to child on their own when it is a necessary part of the service, assessment or support process			





Environment

Other people

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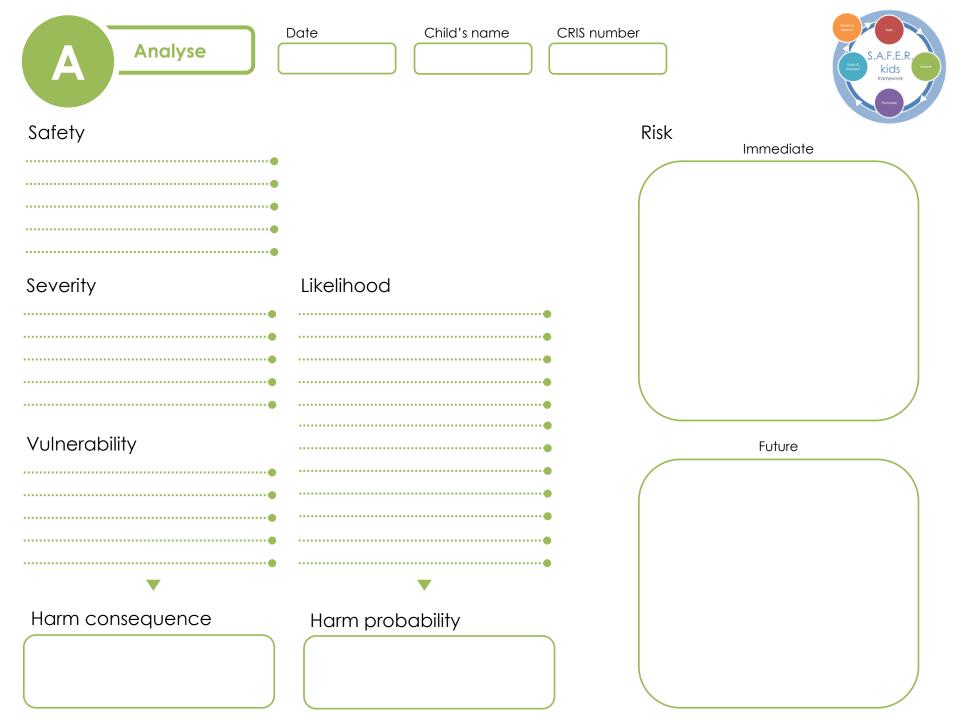
Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
History of violence or abusive behaviour towards other adults or children			
Complex or disrupted family structure			
Increase in family or household size			
Family conflict present			
Low family cohesion			
Child excluded by extended family or community			

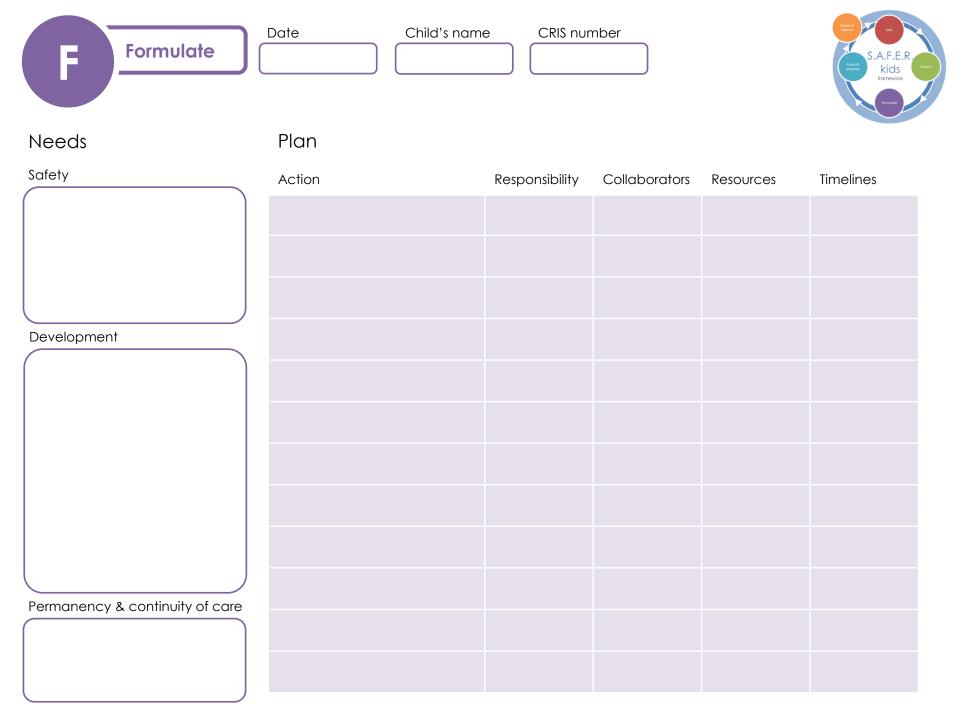
Physical, social and cultural environment

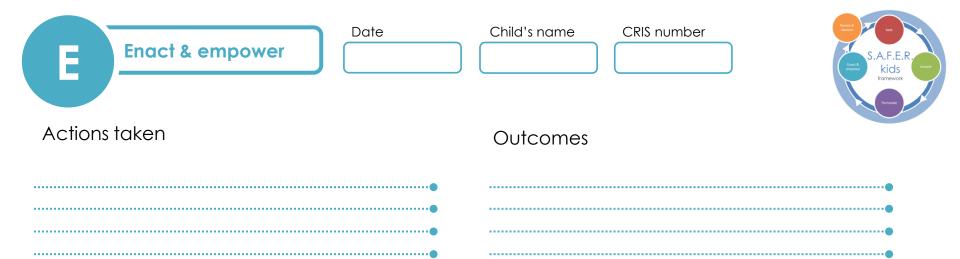
Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Lack of community or social networks			
Unsafe sleeping arrangements			
Homelessness, transient housing or frequent changes in housing			

Service and support networks

Risk	Indicated	Verified	Evidence
Lack of or inappropriate services and supports			
Limited or ineffective engagement between services			
Lack of multiservice informed risk assessment and joined up multiservice responses			
Lack of communication and collaboration across services			







Change in **safety**

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Increase	•
No change	•
Decrease	•
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Change in **severity**

Increase	•	
	•	
No change	•	
Decrease		

Change in vulnerability

	•
change	•
	•
Decrease	

Change in likelihood

\wedge	
Increase	
No	
No change	
Decrease	
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