

Traffic Light Assessment Tool

Definition: This assessment tool is designed to help Preparing for Life Home Visitors gauge the level of engagement and risk within the families they work with. The results are expressed using a traffic light system with three colours: Red, Amber, and Green. It is important to note that families may shift between these colours based on their changing circumstances. Any movement on the rating system should be discussed during Supervision sessions.

Guiding Principles:

- **Strengths-Based Approach:** This tool is aligned with the strengths-based philosophy of the Preparing for Life programme. It should never be used to categorise or label a family based on their needs.
- **Unchanged Interaction:** Regardless of where a family falls on the rating system, the interaction between the Home Visitor and the family remains consistent, emphasising support and respect.
- **Case Complexity Assessment:** Home Visitors use this tool to assess the complexity of their cases and determine the necessary support for the family. This assessment is discussed in Supervision sessions.
- **Caseload Allocation:** This tool assists Home Visitor Coordinators in allocating cases, ensuring a balanced caseload for each Home Visitor.

Usage Example: Example Scenario: Engagement and Risk

1. **Green:** The parent is highly engaged in the programme and responds well to sessions.
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2. **Unexpected Disclosure:** During a session, the parent unexpectedly discloses personal experiences of suicide ideation.
 - Home Visitor engages in open dialogue with the parent to identify necessary supports based on their wants and desires.
3. **Red:** The parent is identified as red, and immediate supports are implemented.
 - This case is closely monitored during this critical period.
4. **Transition to Amber:** Once the parent is engaged in support and responds well, they may transition to the amber category.
 - Monitoring continues to ensure sustained progress.
5. **Potential Return to Green:** If the Home Visitor observes or hears from the parent that their situation is changing positively, they may return to the green category.
 - Decisions to move families through the system are based on ongoing information exchange between the Home Visitor and the family.

Remember, the primary goal of this tool is to assess the family's engagement and risk level to provide the right level of support. It is never intended to stigmatise or categorise families, and the Home Visitor's commitment to supporting families remains constant, irrespective of their rating on the system. Discussion and reflection during supervision sessions are crucial for ensuring practical support and service delivery.

Red - Engagement	Red - Risk	Amber - Engagement	Amber - Risk	Green-Engagement	Green - Risk
- Low session engagement (family are difficult to pin down - there's no pattern to attendance). - Disengagement process is in action.	- Involved in Tusla. - Greatly involved in advocacy, interagency, and Meitheal processes. - Active DV, Substance misuse, mental health. - It is known that the family are involved in criminal activity. - Parent incarcerated. - A lot of distraction throughout the session (environmental factors/ parent struggles to concentrate. - Parents have a learning disability. - Child living within the family home with a moderate to severe disability. - Family isolation/part of minority group/ language barriers.	- Sporadic engagement. - Moderate engagement in sessions.	- Advocacy. - Meitheal. - Interagency – supports are coming together. - Long-term homeless accommodation. - Bereavement. - Physical illness. - Unexplained concern for family.	- High or predictable patterns of engagement. - Most to all sessions run smoothly.	- Responds and engages well with the programme. - Can be linked to services, but everything is moving smoothly.
	Benefits		Benefits		Benefits
	Depending on what percentage of families have been rated as RED will determine how many more families they will be assigned.		Depending on what percentage of families have been rated as AMBER will determine how many more families they will be assigned.		Home Visitors would be able to take on more families.