

## Family Fact Sheet

**The CANS:** We use the CANS to work together. The CANS helps us make sure that children and family's stories are heard and valued. The items are rated so that you direct care and feel change that matters

### The CANS CORE

6 Essential Domains are represented in the CANS Core- The items in these domains represent the minimum set of information we must collect to inform the process of change.

- Strengths
- Cultural Factors
- Behavioral/ Emotional Needs
- Risk Behaviors
- Caregiver Resources and Needs
- Life Functioning

### why use the CANS-

The CANS is different from other measures. It is completed *together*. You are at the center of the process of rating the items and deciding which goals are the most important to pursue right now.

### what does it measure-

The CANS helps us identify your current strengths and needs across 6 key areas. All items are scored as a 0, 1, 2, or 3 (see below). This scoring system focuses on *what action needs to be taken* so that all assessment items are relevant for action planning.

### how to complete the CANS-

- STEP 1: **See the measure.** You can see the measure and the items that we'll be talking about. If your care provider does not show it to you, it's available at: [PraedFoundation.org](http://PraedFoundation.org)
- STEP 2: **Understand how need and strength items are rated.** Ask any questions you have about how this works, what you'll see, and how ratings can change over time.
- STEP 3: **Hear your story.** We'll ask you a series of open ended questions about you. We'll want to know what you do well, what is hard, who helps you, and how we can help you be even more successful.
- STEP 4: We'll write up what we've heard you say. Then we'll show you what we've written and we'll **rate the CANS items together.**
- STEP 5: **Set goals together.** Based on what you've said, we'll see what goals matter the most to you right now. We'll set them together, in your words.
- STEP 6: **Work on goals together.** Then we'll put the help in place that you want and need to help you reach your goals.

STEP 7: **Check in on the goals. Celebrate your successes.** Every time we meet we'll talk about how we're doing in meeting your goals. If we're on track, GREAT! If not, we'll change how we're helping. Every *90-days* we'll check back in on our CANS ratings and items. We'll do that so that we can CELEBRATE your SUCCESS. We'll also plan for how we can be helpful as your goals and life change.



The majority of the CANS items are rated with the child's age and developmental stage in mind.

Item Rating: Action Levels

Rating Needs Domains	
0	No evidence of need; no need for action.
1	History of or possible need; watchful waiting/ prevention/additional assessment.
2	Need is interfering with functioning; action or intervention required.
3	Immediate or intensive action required.

Rating Strengths Domains	
0	Centerpiece strength; central to planning.
1	Strength present; useful in planning.
2	Identified strength; consider strength building or development activities.
3	No strength identified.