

PRACTICE GUIDE

Support levels and behaviour characteristics

Support level	Behaviour/Characteristics
Moderate	Children with moderate support needs are capable of responding to limit-setting or other interventions and may include: 1) a child whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • occasional misbehaviour and transitory difficulties • acting out in response to stress, but episodes of acting out are brief • behaviour that is minimally disturbing to others, but the behaviour is considered typical for the child's age and can be corrected. 2) a child with developmental delays or disability whose characteristics include minor to moderate difficulties with conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. 3) a child who has previously experienced secure attachments, and therefore with significant support is likely to establish a secure base.
High	Children with high support needs have problems in one or more areas of functioning and may include: 1) a child whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • frequent non-violent, anti-social acts • minor property destruction • occasional physical aggression • minor self-injurious actions • sexual acting out without harming others • running away with brief absences • difficulties that present a moderate risk of harm to self or others. 2) a child who misuses alcohol, drugs, or other consciousness-altering substances whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • substance misuse to the extent or frequency that the child is at-risk of substantial problems • a historical diagnosis of substance misuse or dependency with a need for regular community support through groups or similar interventions. 3) a child with developmental delays or disability whose characteristics include: • moderate to substantial difficulties with conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills to include daily living and self-care • moderate impairment in communication, cognition or expressions of affect. 4) a child with primary medical or physical care needs, whose characteristics include one or more of the following:

	• occasional exacerbations of the diagnosed medical condition • limited daily living and self-care skills • ambulatory (mobile) with assistance. 5) a child who has limited current attachments, however, has previously experienced secure attachment, and therefore with significant support is likely to establish a secure base.
Complex	Children with complex support needs have severe problems in one or more areas of functioning and may include: 1) a child whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • unpredictable non-violent, anti-social acts • property destruction • frequent or unpredictable physical aggression • major self-injurious actions, including recent suicide attempts • sexual acting out with aggression • cruelty to animals • running away with prolonged absences • being markedly withdrawn and isolated • history of placement disruption due to behaviour • difficulties that present a significant risk of harm to self or others. 2) a child who misuses alcohol, drugs, or other consciousness-altering substances whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • severe impairment because of the substance misuse • a primary diagnosis of substance misuse or dependency. 3) a child with developmental delays or disability whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • severely impaired conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills to include daily living and self-care • severe impairment in communication, cognition, or expressions of affect • lack of motivation or the inability to complete self-care activities or participate in social activities • inability to respond appropriately to an emergency • multiple physical disabilities including sensory impairments. 4) a child with primary medical or physical care needs whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • regular or frequent exacerbations of the diagnosed medical condition

	• severely limited daily living and self-care skills • ambulatory (mobile) with assistance. 5) a child who has limited current attachments and has not previously experienced secure attachment.
Extreme	Children with extreme support needs have severe problems in one or more areas of functioning that present an imminent and critical danger of harm to self or others and may include: 1) a person whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • extreme physical aggression that causes harm • recurring major self-injurious actions, including suicide attempts • major property destruction • fire setting • sexual acting out with aggression • extreme cruelty to animals • running away with prolonged absences • history of multiple placement disruption due to behaviour • other difficulties that present a critical risk of harm to self or others • severely impaired reality testing, communication skills, cognitive abilities, affect (including little or no remorse for behaviour) and/or personal hygiene. 2) a child who misuses alcohol, drugs, or other consciousness-altering substances whose characteristics include a primary diagnosis of substance dependency in addition to being extremely aggressive or self-destructive to the point of causing harm. 3) a child with developmental delays or disability whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • impairments so severe in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills that the child's ability to actively participate in the program is limited and requires constant one-to-one supervision for the safety of self or others • a consistent inability to cooperate in self-care while requiring constant one-to-one supervision for the safety of self or others. (4) a child with primary medical or physical care needs that present an imminent and critical medical risk whose characteristics include one or more of the following: • frequent acute exacerbations of the diagnosed medical condition • inability to perform daily living or self-care skills • non-ambulatory (immobile) or confined to a bed.