

Children's GAF Scale

100-point rating scale measuring psychological, social and school functioning for children aged 6-17. It was adapted from the Adult Global Assessment Scale and is a valid and reliable tool for rating a child's general level of functioning on a health-illness continuum.

100-91	Superior functioning in all areas (at home, at school and with peers), involved in a range of activities and has many interests (e.g., has hobbies or participates in extracurricular activities or belongs to an organized group such as Scouts, etc.). Likable, confident, "everyday" worries never get out of hand. Doing well in school, no symptoms
90-81	Good functioning in all areas. Secure in family, school and with peers. There may be transient difficulties and "everyday" worries that occasionally get out of hand (e.g. mild anxiety associated with an important exam, occasional "blow ups" with siblings, parents or peers).
80-71	No more than slight impairment in functioning at home, at school, or with peers. Some disturbance of behavior or emotional distress may be present in response to life stresses (e.g., parental separations, deaths, births of a sib) but these are brief and interference with functioning is transient. Such children are only minimally disturbing to others who are not considered deviant by those who know them.
70-61	Some difficulty in a single area, but generally functioning pretty well, (e.g., sporadic or isolated antisocial acts, such as occasionally playing hooky or petty theft; consistent minor difficulties with school work, mood changes of brief duration; fears and anxieties which do not lead to gross avoidance behavior; self doubts). Has some meaningful interpersonal relationships. Most people who do not know the child well would not consider him/her deviant but those who do know him/her well might express concern.
60-51	Variable functioning with sporadic difficulties or symptoms in several but not all social areas. Disturbance would be apparent to those who encounter the child in a dysfunctional setting or time but not those who see the child in other settings.
50-41	Moderate degree of interference in functioning in most social areas or severe impairment of functioning in one area, such as might result from, for example, suicidal preoccupations and ruminations, school refusal and other forms of anxiety, obsessive rituals, major conversion symptoms, frequent anxiety attacks, frequent episodes of aggressive or other antisocial behavior with some preservation of meaningful social relationships.
40-31	Major impairment in functioning in several areas and unable to function in one of these areas, i.e., disturbed at home, at school, with peers, or in the society at large, e.g., persistent aggression without clear instigation; markedly withdrawn and isolated behavior due to either mood or thought disturbance, suicidal attempts with clear lethal intent. Such children are likely to require special schooling and/or hospitalization or withdrawal from school (but this is not a sufficient criterion for inclusion in this category).
30-21	Unable to function in almost all areas, e.g., stays at home, in ward or in bed all day without taking part in social activities OR severe impairment in reality testing OR serious impairment in communication (e.g., sometimes incoherent or inappropriate).
20-11	Needs considerable supervision to prevent hurting other or self, e.g., frequently violent, repeated suicide attempts OR to maintain personal hygiene OR gross impairment in all forms of communication, e.g., severe abnormalities in verbal and gestural communication, marked social aloofness, stupor, etc.
10-1	Needs constant supervision (24-hour care) due to severely aggressive or self-destructive behavior or gross impairment in reality testing, communication, cognition, affect, or personal hygiene.