

Injury History Checklist

The following details should be obtained during an interview with a caregiver regarding the proposed mechanism of injury:

A. Witnesses

Were there any adults who witnessed the event that caused the injury?

- Interview the adults separately
- Compare details of the history

Were there any children who witnessed the event that caused injury?

- Interview any child witnesses away from adults
- Determine the need for a forensic interview

B. Timing

When was the last time the child appeared well?

When did the event that caused the injury occur?

When did the child first display ill symptoms, and what were the ill symptoms?

- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Inability to use an arm or leg
- Pain

C. Location of the event that caused injury

Where did the injury occur? (photograph if possible)

If a fall, from where did the child fall?

What surface or surfaces did the child impact?

If a fall, how high was the fall? (measure if possible)

D. Mechanics - the child's position and motion prior to and during event that caused injury

What was the position and activity of the child prior to the event that caused injury?

- Running?

- Crawling?
- Walking?
- In a caregiver's arms? Position in caregiver's arms?
- Direction the child was facing?

What were the mechanics of the event that caused injury?

- Twisting?
- Falling backward?
- Falling forward?
- Falling sideways? Toward which side?
- Did the child hit anything during a fall?

Which part of the child's body impacted the surface first?

- Arms?
- Feet?
- Head?

E. Reaction

What did the child do immediately after the event that caused injury?

- Vomit?
- Cry?
- Become immediately unconscious?
- Other reactions?

F. Development

What are the child's developmental capabilities? Can the child:

- Roll over?
- Pull to stand?
- Walk? Run?