

Fact Sheet #5- CANVaS 2.0

0,1,2,3-What do they mean???

Do you want to know how you can rate the CANS more accurately? Or what you can use to make passing the online certification test a lot easier? The new “*CANS Item and Rating Definitions Manuals*” for CANVaS 2.0 are the answer! The four manuals are:

- *Standard CANS for Children Ages Birth to Four* (Comprehensive and Reassessment)
- *Standard CANS for Children and Youth Ages 5-21* (Comprehensive and Reassessment)
- *DSS-Enhanced CANS for Children Ages Birth to Four* (Comprehensive and Reassessment)
- *DSS-Enhanced CANS for Children and Youth Ages 5-21* (Comprehensive and Reassessment)

It's hard to adequately emphasize how much easier it is to rate the CANS if you have a copy of the appropriate *Item and Rating Definitions Manual* at your side. You'll find tips about how to rate an item or specific instructions on some anchor definitions. Each manual also includes a discussion of the *Six Key Principles* underlying the CANS rating logic; for example, when should you override the 30-day time frame found on many items?

Although CANVaS 2.0 (the online software) will guide you when completing a CANS, the Manuals also contain instructions about what sections are completed in the Comprehensive Version and what's completed for the Reassessment Version. Make sure you select the Manual that's applicable to your agency and the age of the child or youth you are rating.

If you are a local department of social services case manager, please read the instructions regarding how to rate the items found in the Parent/Guardian section and the new Child Welfare module. You'll need to know not only the new items and their meanings, but how to rate each caregiver in the “caregiver loop.”

The Manuals are posted under “What's New” on the home page of the state CSA website (www.csa.virginia.gov). If you are a CANS rater, it will be well worth your time to review (and print) the applicable Manual for the children or youth with whom you work. You'll be glad you did!