

Name of Tool	Guided Assessment of Intervention Needs (GAIN for children engaging in concerning sexual behaviours)
Category	Youth Assessment: Sexual Violence Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Curwen
Year	2010

Description

- The GAIN is a 34-item risk assessment tool designed to assist in the assessment of the level of concern (risk) that a child will continue engaging in sexual behaviour problems (SBP).
- The GAIN is intended for use with male and female children under the age of 12.
- The static and dynamic GAIN items are organized into 6 categories: 1) Sexual Behaviour Characteristics, 2) Victimization Experiences, 3) Violence and Control, 4) Personal and Interpersonal Characteristics, 5) Family Characteristics, and 6) Intervention.
- The tool was modelled on the ERASOR and is based on empirical evidence and professional opinion; there are no cut-off scores or formulas for determining level of concern (risk).
- The tool was designed to be used as part of a comprehensive assessment.

Age Appropriateness

Under 12 years (not appropriate for 12 year olds).

Assessor Qualifications

Assessors should have good knowledge of child development and child sexual development.

Tool Development

- Empirical and clinical evidence specific to: 1) children known to have continued SBP after identification; 2) children believed likely to continue; 3) treatment goals for children with SBP; 4) assessment tools designed for children at risk for multiple behaviours that included sexual; 5) research regarding adolescent with sexual offences who commenced SBP during childhood.
- The first version of the tool (RSBP) was completed in 2006. Since its inception, the GAIN has undergone revisions to its structure and content ([Curwen, 2011a](#)).
- Curwen (2011b) found that children who had been reprimanded and then repeated concerning sexual behaviours had significantly higher RSBP total scores than children who had not repeated these sexual behaviours subsequent to reprimand.
- In an earlier study, eight factors were found to differentiate between children who did and did not continue engaging in concerning sexual behaviours following adult reprimand. A total score based on the eight factors attained an AUC value of .86 in predicting those who continued engaging in concerning sexual behaviours ([Curwen and Costin, 2007](#); [Curwen, Jenkins and Worling, 2009](#)). The author advises that these eight factors alone should not be used to determine level of concern (risk).

General Notes

- For further information, please visit the following website: <https://faculty.nipissingu.ca/t/>) or contact Dr. Tracey Curwen (tcurwen@nipissingu.ca)
- Radius Child and Youth Services is conducting research on the reliability and validity of the RSBP. To learn more about Radius' GAIN research contact tcurwen@radiuschild-youthservices.ca