

Assessment of Pediatric Responses to Pain		
Developmental Age	Patient Response to Pain	Pain Scale Assessment Tool
Neonates	Rigidity; thrashing; generalized body response	CRIES pain scale or Neonatal Infant Pain Scale (NIPS)
Infants	Local reflex withdrawal; high-pitched loud crying with eyes closed; pushes stimulus away after it is applied; localized body response	CRIES pain scale or FLACC scale
Toddlers	Loud crying; screaming; verbal expressions of one word; uncooperative; pushes stimulus away before it is applied; thrashing	CRIES pain scale or FLACC scale
Preschoolers	Loud crying; screaming; may put hand on site or misrepresent actual location of pain; may describe pain but not intensity	CRIES pain scale, FLACC scale, OUCHER pain scale, or the Wong-Baker FACES pain rating scale
School-Aged Children	Often see stalling behaviors; clenched teeth; body stiffens; closed eyes	FLACC scale or the Wong-Baker FACES pain rating scale for younger school-aged children (ages 6-10) Wong-Baker FACES pain rating scale, the numerical version, for older school-aged children
Adolescents	May talk about pain openly; less protesting; uses expressive words to describe pain experience	Wong-Baker FACES pain rating scale, the numerical version, or adolescent-specific tools such as the Adolescent Pediatric Pain Tool