**QUESTIONS TO ASK IN THE EVALUATION OF SUICIDAL RISK**

*These questions are intended to be used in a semi-structured interview format assessing potential suicidal risk. Not all questions may be appropriate or necessary to ask.*

1. **Suicidal fantasies for actions:**

* Have you ever thought of hurting yourself?
* Have you ever threatened, or attempted, to hurt yourself?
* Have you ever wished, or tried, to kill yourself?
* Have you ever wanted to, or threatened to, commit suicide?

1. **Concepts of what would happen:**

* What did you think would happen in you tried to hurt of kill yourself?
* What did you want to have happen?
* Did you think you would die?
* Did you think you would have severe injuries?

1. **Circumstances at the time of the child’s suicidal behavior:**

* What was happening at the time you thought about killing yourself or tried to kill yourself?
* What was happening before you thought about killing yourself?
* Was anyone else with you or near you when you thought about suicide or tried to kill yourself?

1. **Previous experiences with suicidal behavior:**

* Have you ever thought about killing yourself of tried to kill yourself before?
* Do you know of anyone who either thought about, attempted, or committed suicide?
* How did this person carry out his suicidal ideas or action?
* Why do you think this person wanted to kill himself?
* What was happening at the time this person thought about suicide or tried to kill him/herself?

1. **Motivations for suicidal behaviors**

* Why did you want to kill yourself?
* Did you try to kill yourself?
* Did you want to frighten someone?
* Did you wish someone would rescue you before you tried to hurt yourself?
* Did you feel rejected?
* Were you feeling hopeless?
* Did you hear voices telling you to kill yourself?
* Did you have very frightening thoughts?
* What else was a reason for your desire to kill yourself?

Adapted from Pfeffer, C. (1986). The Suicidal Child, pages 187-188.

1. **Experiences and concepts of death**

* What happens when people die?
* Do they come back again?
* Do they go to a better place?
* Do they go to a pleasant place?
* Do you often think about people dying?
* Do you often think about your own death?
* Do you often dream about people or yourself dying?
* Do you know of anyone who had died?
* When do you think you will die?
* What will happen when you die?

1. **Depression and other affects:**

* Do you ever feel sad, upset, angry or bad?
* Do you ever feel that no one cares about you?
* Do you ever feel that you are not a worthwhile person?
* Do you cry a lot?
* Do you get angry often?
* Do you often fight with other people?
* Do you have difficulty sleeping, eating, or concentrating on school work?
* Do you have trouble getting along with friends?
* Do you prefer to stay by yourself?
* Do you often feel tired?
* Do you blame yourself for things that happen?
* Do you often feel guilty?

1. **Family and Environmental Situations:**

* Do you have difficulty in school?
* Do you worry about doing well in school?
* Do you worry that your parents will punish you for doing poorly in school?
* Do you get teased by other children?
* Have you started a new school?
* Did you move to a new home?
* Did anyone leave home?
* Did anyone die?
* Was anyone sick in your family?
* Have you been separated from your parents?
* Are your parents separated or divorced?
* Do you think that your parents treat you harshly?
* Do you parents fight a lot?
* Does anyone get hurt?
* Is anyone in your family sad, depressed, or very upset? Who?
* Did anyone in your family talk about suicide or try to kill himself?