

Child primary assessment

A six month old has been brought in to your department. It has taken reduced feeds over the past 2 days and today has been refusing all. It is now drowsy.

In the primary assessment of the child (APLS)

Give 3 modes of assessing airway patency (1 mark)

Look for chest/abdo movement

Listen for Breath sounds/stridor

Feel for expired air

Give 6 ways of assessing the effort of breathing (3 marks)

Resp rate

Recession

Wheeze

Accessory muscle use

Stridor

Grunting

Flaring alae nasi

Give 2 ways of assessing the efficacy of breathing (1 mark)

Chest expansion/abdominal excursion

Breath sounds

SaO₂ in air

Give 2 effects of breathing on other physiology (1 mark)

Heart rate

Skin colour

Mental status

Give 3 ways of assessing the circulation in a child (2 marks)

Heart rate

Blood pressure

Cap refill time

Skin temp and colour

Give 4 elements of assessing Disability in an unwell child (2 marks)

Mental status (AVPU)

Pupils

Posture

Neck stiffness/ raised fontanelle