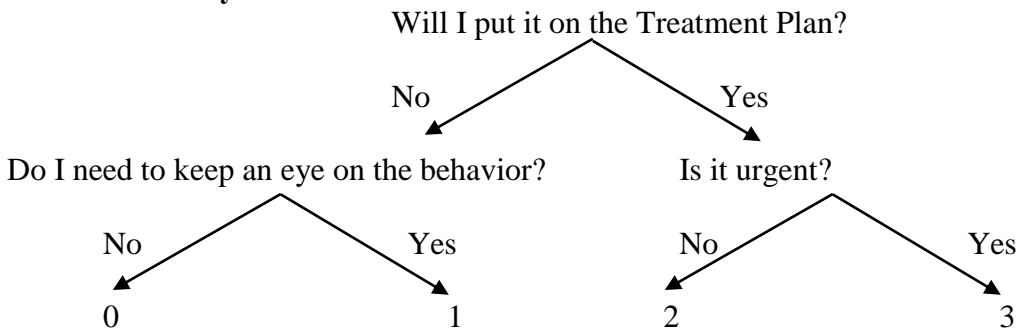# CANS/ANSA Tips

6 Key Characteristics
1. Items impact service planning
    You should use your ratings to identify needs for the treatment plan.
2. Level of items translates into Action Levels
    An item rated 2 or 3 requires action.
3. It's about the client, not the service
    Don't rate behavior with a low score if the client has been in a controlled environment.
    Artificial environments may mask the behavior.
4. Rate the "**what"** and not the "why"
    Rate the behavior without using trying to justify the behavior.
5. Consider Cultural and Developmental Context
    Age Normative Development
    Cultural context of family/community/etc
6. 30ish day window – Relevancy and Freshness
    Keep the information fresh and RELEVANT.
    Don't get stuck on 30 days – if it's relevant and older than 30 days, still use the information.
    Action Levels trump Time Frames – if it should be on your treatment plan, rate it higher!

Focus on the general Framework instead of the manual definitions

Needs		*Strengths (only used in Child Strengths section)*
No evidence	0 (Good)	Centerpiece
Watchful/History	1	Useful
Action Needed	2	Needs Work
Urgent Action Needed	3 (Less Good)	No strength identified/no evidence

Decision Tree – When you're stuck

Will I put it on the Treatment Plan?

No / Yes

Do I need to keep an eye on the behavior?   Is it urgent?

No / Yes   No / Yes

0   1   2   3

Caregiver/Family is Permanent Planned Caregiver
    Usually not paid caregivers
    What's the county's plan for permanency?
    Defaults to Bio Family