

- Begs for the procedure to end
- Clings to parent, nurse, or other significant person
- Requests physical comfort, such as hugs or other forms of emotional support
- Becomes restless and irritable with ongoing pain
- Worries about the anticipation of the actual painful procedure

School-Age Child

- Demonstrates behaviors of the young child, especially during actual painful procedure, but less before the procedure
- Exhibits time-wasting behavior, such as “Wait a minute” or “I’m not ready”
- Displays muscular rigidity, such as clenched fists, white knuckles, gritted teeth, contracted limbs, body stiffness, closed eyes, wrinkled forehead

Adolescent

- Less vocal with less physical resistance
- More verbal in expressions, such as “It hurts” or “You’re hurting me”
- Displays increased muscle tension and body control

The FLACC Pain Assessment Tool is an interval scale that includes the five categories of behavior: Facial expression, Leg movement, Activity, Cry, and Consolability (Babl, Crellin, Cheng, et al, 2012; Merkel, Voepel-Lewis, Shayevitz, et al, 1997). It measures each behavior on a 0 to 10 scale, with total scores ranging from 0 (no pain behaviors) to 10 (most possible pain behaviors).

The only behavior pain measurement tool recommended for use with children in critical care settings is the COMFORT scale (Ambuel, Hamlett, Marx, et al, 1992). The COMFORT scale is a