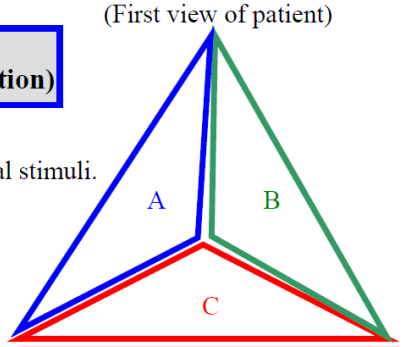
PEDIATRIC ASSESSMENT TRIANGLE

General Impression
(First view of patient)

Airway & Appearance
(Open/Clear – Muscle Tone /Body Position)

Abnormal: Abnormal or absent cry or speech. Decreased response to parents or environmental stimuli. Floppy or rigid muscle tone or not moving.

Normal: Normal cry or speech. Responds to parents or to environmental stimuli such as lights, keys, or toys. Good muscle tone. Moves extremities well.



Work of Breathing
(Visible movement / Respiratory Effort)

Abnormal: Increased/excessive (nasal flaring, retractions or abdominal muscle use) or decreased/absent respiratory effort or noisy breathing.

Normal: Breathing appears regular without excessive respiratory muscle effort or audible respiratory sounds.

Circulation to Skin
(Color / Obvious Bleeding)

Abnormal: Cyanosis, mottling, paleness/pallor or obvious significant bleeding.
Normal: Color appears normal for racial group of child. No significant bleeding.