The Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT) may be useful in forming the primary impression of children, especially those under the age of 5. Using only visual and auditory clues, the PAT reflects the child's overall physiologic status.

1. Appearance
2. Work of breathing
3. Circulation to skin / skin color

The mnemonic "TICLS" summarizes the characteristics of appearance:
- T: Muscle tone
- I: Interaction
- C: Consolable
- L: Look / Gaze
- S: Speech/ Cry

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