Outline for seizure assessment

Features of a seizure:

Associated factors
Age
Family history
Developmental status
Behavior
Health at seizure onset
Precipitating events other than illness—trauma, toxins
Health at seizure onset—febrile, ill, exposed to illness, complaints of not feeling well, sleep deprived

Symptoms during seizure (ictal)
Aura: Subjective sensations
Behavior: Mood or behavioral changes before the seizure
Preictal symptoms: Described by patient or witnessed
Vocal: Cry or gasp, slurring of words, garbled speech
Motor: Head or eye turning, eye deviation, posturing, jerking (rhythmic), stiffening, automatisms (purposeless repetitive movements such as picking at clothing, lip smacking); generalized or focal movements
Respiration: Change in breathing pattern, cessation of breathing, cyanosis
Autonomic: Pupillary dilatation, drooling, change in respiratory or heart rate, incontinence, pallor, vomiting
Loss of consciousness or inability to understand or speak
*Symptoms following seizure (postictal)*
Amnesia for events
Confusion
Lethargy
Sleepiness
Headaches and muscle aches
Transient focal weakness (Todd’s paresis)
Nausea or vomiting