

Structured Conversation

- What's going well?
- What's difficult for you at the moment?
- What do you think is stopping you getting your child into school?
- Can you walk me through a day in your family/household?
- What is life like for you? Your child?
- How do you usually solve family problems? Who does what?
- What do you want to see in the future for your child?

- How could things get better?
- Who can you rely on in difficult times? Who can you trust?
- What is the best time of day when you can spend time with your children? For example, after school, dinner, bedtime?

I am going to ask you to pick a number from 1-10 to help me understand how you're feeling;

1 means things are really not going well at all.

10 means everything is fine and going well.

- Any times when it was lower? What helped you raise it?
- What would it take to move up to 9 or 10?
- When will you know when things are improving?
- What do you want to see for yourself and your family six months from now? A year from now?
- How can I help you make sure that our involvement in your family helps you get to some of your own goals?

- Miracle question?

Things to consider

Identify family strengths and capacities

Do not just focus on family problems and deficits. It is important to recognise that all families have strengths and capacities and to try and identify these in your assessment. Ask questions about positive experiences in their family and whether there are particular family relationships that they value and cherish.

Sometimes it may be difficult to identify family strengths but even in situations where family relationships have broken down, the family's strength may lie in the fact that they have been able to identify their limited ability to provide support at this time and that 'time out' is needed.

Always clarify your role, be clear about what services you can offer.

Genograms and ecomaps are useful tools to assist assessment of family relationships and support networks

Note:

Where do you think is the best place to have this conversation?

Would the answers be different if the conversation was held at the family home/community instead of school?

