



## Strengths/Needs Worksheet – After Meetings 6 and 7

In the left column are the Criteria for Mutual Selection of foster and adoptive families. By the end of Meetings 6 and 7 you should have had the chance to begin developing several of the “Twelve Criteria for Mutual Selection.” Remember no two families are alike. Every family has or can develop many skills which will be helpful in their new roles. You and the agency you are working with will mutually access your willingness and ability to be successful foster and/or adoptive families. We have included one example of a strength and need related to the twelve criteria. Please identify three strengths and needs that you have as a family.

Criteria for Mutual Selection	Family <i>strengths</i> which will help us accomplish this ability	Family <i>needs</i> to be met in order to grow in our ability to do the task
<i>Example:</i>	<i>After participating in the five connections activities, I feel that I will be able to assess the impact of adding a child to my family. I will also be able to better understand how much a child gives up when placed in foster care. (criteria 11)</i>	<i>After reading and discussing the Merrilee case, my husband and I really need to work in partnership with birth families to ensure the best results for any child placed in our home. (criteria 5)</i>
1. <b>Know your family</b> – Assess your individual and family strengths and needs, build on strengths and meet needs.		
2. <b>Communicate effectively</b> – Use and develop communication skills needed to foster or adopt.		

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3. <b>Know the children</b> – Identify the strengths and needs of children and youth who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, and/or emotionally maltreated.		
4. <b>Build strengths; meet needs</b> – Build on strengths and meet needs of children and youth who are placed with you.		
5. <b>Work in partnership</b> – Develop partnerships with children and youth, birth families, the agency, and the community to develop and carry out plans for permanency.		
6. <b>Be loss and attachment experts</b> – Help children and youth develop skills to manage loss and attachment.		

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7. <b>Manage Behaviors</b> – Help children and youth manage behaviors.		
8. <b>Build Connections</b> – Help children and youth maintain and develop relationships that keep them connected to their pasts.		
9. <b>Build self-esteem</b> – Help children and youth build on positive self-concept and positive family, cultural, and racial identity.		
10. <b>Assure health and safety</b> – Provide a healthy and safe environment for children and youth and keep them free from harm.		

Criteria for Mutual Selection	Family <i>strengths</i> which will help us accomplish this ability	Family <i>needs</i> to be met in order to grow in our ability to do the task
11. <b>Assess Impact</b> – Assess the ways fostering and/or adopting will affect your family.		
12. <b>Make an Informed Decision</b> – Make an informed decision to foster or adopt.		

**Abilities learned after Meetings 6 and 7:**

- ◆ Describe how culture, race, and ethnicity are tied to identity.
- ◆ Demonstrate the skill of asking critical questions to understand a child’s cultural needs.
- ◆ State the responsibilities of foster families relative to ICWA (Indian Children Welfare Act).
- ◆ Determine the risks for a Native American child whose cultural identity is not maintained.
- ◆ Describe how the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA) and its amendments of 1996 (IEP) can affect the well-being of children and youth placed transracially.
- ◆ Explain the requirements and intent of MEPA/IEP.
- ◆ State a prospective foster family’s responsibility relative to implementation of MEPA/IEP.
- ◆ Determine the risks for a child whose cultural identify is not maintained in foster care or adoption.
- ◆ Nurture a child’s cultural connections.
- ◆ Support shared parenting.
- ◆ Demonstrate support of the alliance model through visits.
- ◆ Help children and youth transition from foster care.
- ◆ Demonstrate ways to prevent disruptions or dissolutions of foster care placements or adoptions.
- ◆ Apply strategies for intervening with a child’s behavior during a family crisis or preventing a crisis.