



ALIGNING STRENGTHENING FAMILIES™ AND TEAMING

Protective factor	Definition	How teaming builds it
Parental Resilience	Caregivers maintain a positive attitude and have the ability to cope with, creatively solve, recover and grow from challenges in their personal life and parenting experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treating families in an empathetic and respectful way that conveys that they are valued• Engaging the families as primary decision-makers in creating a safety plan• Focusing on identifying and developing families' existing strengths• Making resiliency building strategies part of the teaming discussion
Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development	Caregivers understand what to expect at different stages of child development, effective parenting skills and ways of finding help with specific developmental or behavioral problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helping caregivers identify new ways to parent that can address safety issues• Identifying specific parenting stresses and developing plans for resolving them• Helping caregivers better understand their children and how to parent more effectively
Social Connections	Caregivers have a network of people, agencies and organizations that provide emotional support and concrete assistance and the skills and tools to develop and maintain social networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asking families about who in their social network can contribute to their safety plan• Encouraging families to invite key individuals in their support system to teaming discussions
Concrete Support in Times of Need	Caregivers have the skills and tools to access formal and informal services and supports from social networks in times of family crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inviting community partners to participate in team meetings• Helping caregivers identify community resources to help them meet case plan goals
Children's Social and Emotional Development	Caregivers work with children to help them learn to interact positively with others, communicate their emotions and feel good about themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inviting children to participate when appropriate• Ensuring that children's experience of trauma is recognized and a plan to address the trauma is developed as part of teaming conversations



INCLUDING A STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PERSPECTIVE IN FAMILY CONFERENCES

Protective factors	Developmental needs	Caregiver decision making
Safety Conference		
<p>What protective capacities have been identified as needing to be strengthened?</p> <p>Can specific protective factors support the protective capacities?</p>	<p>Does the child have critical developmental needs requiring urgent attention?</p>	<p>Does the caregiver understand the safety concerns and threats?</p> <p>Has the caregiver been engaged in thinking about how to respond to these concerns and threats?</p>
Family Support Conference		
<p>Have caregiver protective factors been assessed?</p> <p>Has an action plan been developed to support building protective factors that will contribute to needed protective capacities or goals under the single case plan?</p> <p>Are individuals who can support the caregiver's protective factors engaged in the conference?</p>	<p>Has the child's developmental status been assessed?</p> <p>Does the single case plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the child is linked to quality developmental supports? • Support continuity with existing caregivers and care settings whenever possible? • Help the child transition when continuity is not possible? 	<p>Has the caregiver identified areas of their parenting that are strong or need strengthening in order to respond to the needs of their child?</p> <p>If the child has been placed, does the caregiver have a clear understanding of the expectations to achieve reunification?</p>
Placement Stability Conference		
<p>Can the existing placement be supported by a focus on building the caregiver's protective factors?</p>	<p>Does the placement plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the child is linked to quality developmental supports? • Support continuity with existing caregivers and care settings whenever possible? • Help the child transition when continuity is not possible? 	<p>Is the caregiver involved in thinking through the new placement decision and how their knowledge of the child can help inform the placement decision?</p> <p>Has the impact of the new placement on the caregiver's ability to visit and stay connected to the child been considered?</p>
Permanency Conference		
<p>Has the caregiver met goals around building protective factors?</p> <p>Does the caregiver have a continuing protective factors plan in place?</p> <p>Is the caregiver connected to needed supports for continuing to build protective factors?</p> <p>Does the caregiver understand how the permanency decision will impact his/her protective factors and know how to stay strong in the face of the permanency decision?</p>	<p>Does the permanency plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the child is linked to quality developmental supports? • Support continuity with existing caregivers and care settings whenever possible? • Help the child transition when continuity is not possible? 	<p>Has the caregiver been engaged in permanency decisions?</p> <p>Has the caregiver been supported in thinking about how to keep from re-entering the child welfare system?</p>