



WORKSHEET: USING PROTECTIVE FACTORS AS A LENS TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARD CASE CLOSURE

Worker name _____

Family name _____

Date last updated _____

Just as we monitor other aspects of case progress, we also want to stay attuned to changes in the family's protective factors. In the end, as families transition out of their engagement with the child welfare system, we want to be able to demonstrate that:

- The family made progress on their own protective factors goals
- The family can reliably draw upon their protective factors in ways that help prevent a repeat of the issues that brought them in contact with the system
- The family has a plan in place for continuing to build their protective factors once they are no longer involved with the system

The chart below can be used in multiple ways, including:

- In early engagement with caregivers to discuss and agree on the type of growth in protective factors that could be used to indicate progress
- In family team meetings or other conversations with partners who are also supporting the family
- To help staff in documenting growth in family strengths for court reports and other case progress reports
- To support decisions about case closure

The form below includes possible indicators of family progress, with room for your notes.

Questions to ask	Indicators of change as framed by protective factors
Has caregiver functioning acceptably improved?	Strengthened Parental Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Improved problem solving skills<input type="checkbox"/> Better able to cope with stress/does not allow stress to impact parenting<input type="checkbox"/> Self-care strategies in place
	Social and Emotional Competence of Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver is emotionally responsive to the child(ren)<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has created an environment in which the child(ren) demonstrates a sense of safety to express his/her emotions<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver separates emotions from actions<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver provokes age-appropriate social-emotional responses and encourages/reinforces social skills<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver creates opportunities for the child(ren) to explore and solve problems
	Other Indicators and Notes



Questions to ask	Indicators of change as framed by protective factors
Has caregiver's willingness and ability to reach out to others in times of need changed?	Strengthened Parental Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Improved help-seeking behavior<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving mental health or substance abuse services as needed
	Enhanced Social Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has supportive relationships<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has a network he/she can turn to for help<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has relationship-building skills
	Concrete Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver is open to accessing and using services<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has enhanced skills in accessing supports when needed
	Other Indicators and Notes
Does the caregiver have realistic expectations for the child(ren)?	Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver is more confident in his/her parenting skills<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has a new appreciation for his/her nurturing role<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has developed a balance between parenting and self-care<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver better understands/encourages healthy development<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver better understands/employs age-appropriate responses to the child(ren)'s behaviors<input type="checkbox"/> Child(ren) responds more positively to the caregiver's approach<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver is effectively linked to early childhood resources<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver is involved in the child(ren)'s early childhood activities<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver understands the child(ren)'s special needs and how best to meet those needs
	Social and Emotional Competence of Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Caregivers sets clear and age-appropriate expectations/limits<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver has created an environment in which the child(ren) can safely express his or her emotions<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver is emotionally responsive to the child(ren)
	Other Indicators and Notes