

# Parent & Family Engagement



Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc.  
*Empowering Children, Youth, and Young Adults with  
Behavioral Health Challenges and Their Families.*



# Traditional Family Engagement

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[slido.com](https://www.slido.com)  
**#658054**

## Tips on Engaging Others

- ▶ Ask open-ended questions
- ▶ Be non-judgmental
- ▶ Listen...
- ▶ Get permission to give advice
- ▶ Express empathy



## Possible Open-ended Questions

- ▶ If you could change anything about the past year, what would you change?
- ▶ What would have been helpful to you that you didn't get during your pregnancy?
- ▶ Who do you call on when you need help and how do they help you?
- ▶ If you could write a letter to your child about becoming a parent, what advice would you give them?
- ▶ What would you like your life to look like a year from now?
- ▶ What are your dreams for your child?

## Empathy Versus Sympathy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw>

## Why Strength Based?

- It is an empowering alternative to traditional methods which describe family in terms of dysfunction or deficits.
- It fosters hope by focusing on success
- Families are more in control of their own lives
- are a

**So People Can Take Control of Their Own Lives in Meaningful and Sustainable Ways.**

- Empowers people
- Fosters behavior change
- Draws upon personal resources



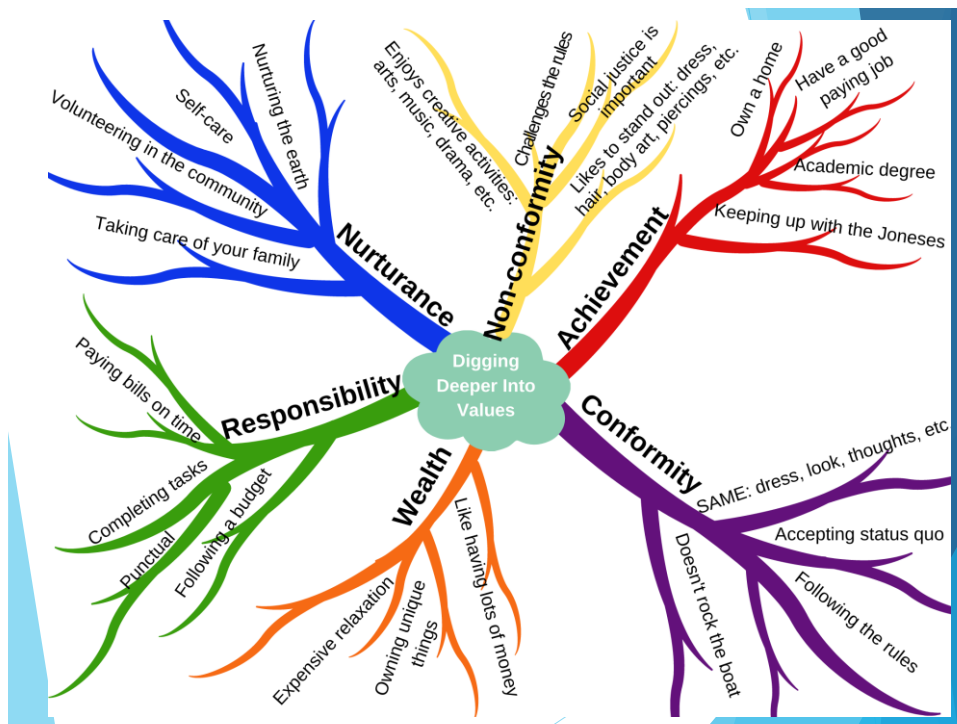
## Values

- My values define who I am based on my culture and experiences!
- My values are a reflection of what I care about most in life.
- My values change and grow, like I do.

## Values Sort

- ▶ People play out their values differently.
- ▶ Whose values govern the decision-making when working with families?
- ▶ How do you honor someone else's values?
- ▶ Expect collisions





## Discussion Scenario

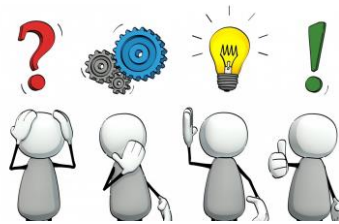
John is a three-year old male who has experienced NAS. He is currently living with his mom's sister while his mom is working a reunification plan. John's dad is still in active use and only sees John sporadically. Mom and her sister are currently experiencing a strained relationship due to a lack of partnership regarding the reunification process.



John suffers from sensory integration and auditory processing issues. Due to his early trauma, he has had difficulty connecting with his aunt who is currently raising him. John's mom was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and prescribed medication which she does not take regularly.

## Discussion Points!

- ▶ What resources can you identify that would be helpful to this family?
- ▶ What resources can you identify that would be helpful to John?
- ▶ What might be the challenges when trying to engage and incorporate John's family into his plan?
- ▶ What strategies can you utilize to incorporate John's parents and his aunt?
- ▶ What other concerns would you have for John and his family?



- ▶ Ask open-ended questions
- ▶ Be non-judgmental
- ▶ Listen...with your heart as well as your ears
- ▶ Get permission to give advice
- ▶ Express empathy
- ▶ Meeting families "where they are"
- ▶ Understanding where they want to go
- ▶ Supporting families in overcoming barriers
- ▶ Celebrating progress
- ▶ Increase opportunities for involvement
- ▶ Utilize families as partners in providing services to others

**Tips on Engaging Families**

## Contact Information

For more information about Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. please visit us at [www.kypartnership.org](http://www.kypartnership.org) or email Barbara Greene at [barbara@kypartnership.org](mailto:barbara@kypartnership.org) or Carol Cecil at [cwcecil@kypartnership.org](mailto:cwcecil@kypartnership.org) if you have any questions/comments about family engagement.

