

The Icebreaker Meeting:

*How The System Can Support Relationship Building
Between Birth Parents and Foster Parents*



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Project Goals

System Goal:

Decrease the number of children in foster care.

Icebreaker Goal:

Provides system-supported structure for birth and foster parents/kinship caregivers to cultivate positive relationships.



An Icebreaker is...

- * An informal, face-to-face meeting between caregivers that is facilitated by a partnership staff member
- * To occur soon after child placement
- * A sharing of needed information so that caregivers do a great job taking care of child.



What Ice breakers are NOT

- * Mediation session between caregivers
- * For asking the Foster Parents to supervise visitations
- * Meetings where children are present
- * Formal meetings with several staff members in attendance

Icebreaker Tools

About My Child

Instructions:

This tool has been adapted for use as part of the information shared during the Parent to Parent Meeting. This tool is designed to help you and the Partnership Parents caring for your child share important information about your child's growth and development.

Information to be completed by the parent / guardian.

Fill in identifying information.

All About ME

(Teen)

My name is _____ and here is some information that might be helpful to my new caregivers.

ALL ABOUT ME

My **Name** is:

My Birthday is:

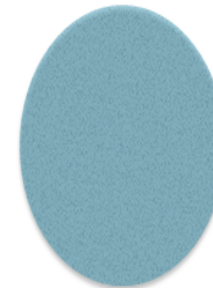


_____ which means I am _____ years

_____ brothers and sisters. Their names and ages are: _____

Your Child's "Eco-Map"

Nearly all young children develop close bonds to at least two or more people. We call these "heart connections". Please put your child's name in the circle below. Think about the different adults in your child's life with whom he or she has a close bond or "heart" connection. Draw circles that represent each of those people, putting each person's circle either close to, or if you wish a little farther away from, your child's circle so each one reflects how close your child feels to that person. Then connect each circle to your child's circle with a line. Remember: include everyone who supports or interacts with your child on a regular basis. To see a sample "Eco-map", turn the page over.



Co-parenting Icebreaker Meeting

FSFSN Case Name:

FSFN ID Number:

Child(ren):

Biological Parent(s):

Foster Parent(s)/Caregiver(s):

Attendees: Facilitator _____

Date/Time/Location:

Description of meeting
(Parent's level of engagement, temperament, timeliness, etc.)



Projected Implementation Times

WHAT	WHEN	FACILITATED BY WHOM
ECC Cases	April 2016	ECC Coordinator
Non-ECC Bay County Licensed Care	June 2016	Foster Parent Support Specialist
All Other Bay County Dependency Cases (Including kinship caregivers)	?	Specialist/Case Worker

General Process Flow for ECC Cases

Night of Removal

Decision made to shelter

- ✓ Foster home located
- ✓ Community Coordinator (CC) notified of removal & attends court.

At initial shelter hearing—no later than one week.



CC will propose icebreaker with birth parent(s). Make contact with Foster Parent Support Specialist for icebreaker.

One week after entering the program

- ✓ Icebreaker time is arranged

Within two weeks of entering the program

Icebreaker Completed

General Process Flow for NON-ECC Bay Cases

*At Removal,
Specialist contacts
Placement
Department and PI.*

**Begins
Research**

- ✓ Looks for No Contact Orders, if parent is available, screens for safety concerns.
- ✓ Starts tracker of the child and caregivers.

*Within 48 hours,
Specialist contacts
Foster Parent first for
Icebreaker meeting.*

- ✓ If YES from Foster Parent, then Bio Parent will be contacted.

*Within one week
after entering system
of care.*

- ✓ Icebreaker time is arranged at BBCBC during office hours.

*Icebreaker
Completed within
TWO weeks of family
entering into system.*

**Meeting Notes
uploaded into FSFN.**



Deal breakers for Icebreakers

- * Foster Parent not willing
- * Bio Parent not willing
- * Child has adoption goal
- * Planning to go Expedited TPR
- * No contact order
- * Extreme mental health issues, don't offer it
- * Parent not available
- * Temporary or respite placement.



Circuit 6 Survey Findings

- * **80% of participants** said the icebreaker was helpful to them
- * **More than 80% participants** said they would do it again
- * **90% of foster parents** have remained in contact with the birth parents
- * **25% of foster parents** said that they have had supervised visits since icebreaker
- * Input from kinship caregivers: ***“Not the same as before”***. Better understanding of what it means to be a custodian.

*October 2015 Circuit 6 Participants surveyed



To Be Continued...

- * **What's next?**

Site Visit to Pinellas County on March 4th

- * **Any questions, Ideas, Suggestions?**

THANK YOU for Being Here!