

DEEP DIVE MODULE 3 THINGS TO TRY: CASEWORK

Challenge yourself by choosing one of the ideas below and TRY IT ON. Consider sharing your chosen activity and outcome with your supervisor, field instructor, or deep dive leader.

HARM STATEMENTS

When you are writing your next court report, consider including a harm, worry, and goal statement that you developed with the family.

WORRY STATEMENTS

- Thinking about a current case, jot down a quick list of worry statements pertaining to the child's safety.
- Sort the statements by safety focus, permanency focus, and well-being focus.
- Determine whether you have adequate worry statements. Ask yourself, Is this a balanced assessment? Do we *need* this case to continue? **If you lack safety-focused statements but have several statements focused on well-being, this is an indicator for prevention services or case closure.

TRY ON THE LANGUAGE

In your next case consult with your supervisor, field trainer, or coach, see whether you can verbalize the worry and goal statements within a current case.

- What are we worried that will happen if DCFS goes away?
- What does safety (presence of protection) need to look like? How will we know when we can close the case?

GOAL

Invite a family to write the goal statement down on a piece of paper and hang it in plain sight within their home. Return to the goal statement time and time again throughout your engagement with the family.

CHILD'S VOICE

Try the Three Houses activity during a victim or sibling interview. Be intentional with your time, and allow space for the child to tell you about their world. Use open-ended questions.

- *House of Good Things*: "Can you tell me something that you love about your home and your family?" "What makes you feel good or safe at home?"
- *House of Worries*: "What in your home makes you sad or unsafe?" "Sometimes things make us feel angry or upset—is there anything in your home that makes you feel like that?"
- *House of Hopes and Dreams*: "What would your life or home look like if all of your worries were gone?"

Try the Safety House the next time you are creating an immediate safety plan with a family. Review the five key concepts.

- *The Inner Circle*: Who lives in the safety house?
- *Within the Walls*: What do you like to do and with whom in the safety house?
- *The Safety Network*: Who can visit the safety house? (Can also use the Circle of Safety and Support to get more network member ideas.)
- *The Rules Roof*: What rules do we need to ensure everyone is safe? How should the adults behave?
- *The Path to Safety*: A scaling question to determine how safe the child feels.