

# DEEP DIVE MODULE 3 THINGS TO TRY: INVESTIGATIONS

**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 protection plan, 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* to open a case?

## 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) look like? How will we know when we can close the case?

## GOAL

Invite a family on your caseload 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 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?" "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.