

Parent Interview Assessment

The Principles of Partnership are the foundation for engagement and have application throughout interviews with parents. As you reflect on your interview keep these in mind.

The [Principles of Partnership](#) are:

- Everyone Desires Respect
- Everyone Needs to Be Heard
- Everyone Has Strengths
- Judgements Can Wait
- Partners Share Power
- Partnership is a Process

Introduction:

1. Worker identified themselves by stating their first name, last name, agency's full title (Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare), parent's first name and last name.

Introductions: When we are seeking to engage in conversation with others it is a respectful practice to fully introduce ourselves before asking anything from them. When we are representing an organization, it includes sharing the full name of our organization. By clearly identifying who we are and where we come from we are also sharing power through sharing this information. Verifying that we are speaking to the correct person, by asking for them by their full name, is not only respectful and a way of honoring their unique personhood, but also helps to protect the confidentiality of the person we seek to engage. This relates to the principles of **Everyone Desires Respect** and **Partners Share Power**.

At the Door/Initial Contact:

2. Reason for contact was stated in a way that was responsive to the parent and stated in a way that clearly identified the child safety concern without using inflammatory language.

Reason for Contact: When we take the time to consider how we can clearly and empathetically articulate child safety concerns with the human being standing in front of us, before asking to enter their home, we are honoring them in multiple ways. First, we are sharing power through providing clear and specific reasons why child welfare has chosen to intervene in their lives. Second, when we avoid the use of inflammatory language we are not only respectful of the impact of such language, but also setting aside judgment allowing us to embrace a lens of curiosity. Finally, by clearly articulating the reason for our contact before asking to enter into conversation, or their home, we are respecting their right to say, "No." This relates to the principles of **Everyone Desires Respect**, **Judgements Can Wait** and **Partners Share Power**.

3. Responded to parent's needs, current concerns and questions. For example, did responded to Tami asking for further clarification or repeating of "why are you here?" without defensiveness.

Taking Time to Respond: When we engage empathetically we are not only listening to the words, but the deeper meanings that are being shared in the moment. Those deeper meanings are often conveyed through various forms of body language. When we are receptive to the fully embodied message of the speaker in front of us we are honoring the principle that **everyone needs to be heard and understood**. Further, understanding not only involves the practice of listening, but the art of asking questions from a place of curiosity. When we practice listening and questioning in these ways, in all of our interactions, we are honoring the principle that **Partnership is a Process**.

4. Asked and received permission to enter the home without coercion

Permission to Enter: By asking for permission and respecting their decision whether to enter their home, we are respecting their right to say, "No." This relates to the principles of **Everyone Desires Respect and Partners Share Power**.

5. Asked if anyone else was present in the home

Ask if Anyone Else is Present. When we ask if anyone else is present in the home we are most clearly honoring the principle that **everyone desires respect**. It is a practice that is respectful of the individual to whom we are speaking. If we learn that someone else is in the home, we can then ask, at least, one of two types of questions. First, is there somewhere we can talk so that we will not be overheard (honoring an individual's right to a private conversation). Second, is that someone who you wish to be a part of this conversation or is a support to the family (honoring familial or cultural practices around including elders of other significant individuals in important conversations). Finally, asking if someone else is in the home is a practice of respecting yourself. Knowing who is in the home can help you to make informed decisions about how to best ensure your own personal safety and well-being as you perform duties.

Gathering Information

6. After entering Tami's home, started with stating the reason for contact using clear language that Tami understood.

Start with Reason for Contact. When entering into a parent's home, it is respectful to communicate why you are there in a way that the parent can understand. Withholding or distracting from such information increases the power differential. Therefore, immediately sharing this information with the parent aligns with the principles **Partners Share Power** and **Everyone Desires Respect**.

7. Response to the parent when they express a need to talk about why a Child Welfare worker is there utilizes the Principles of Partnership and empowers the parent to lead the conversation.

Parent Communication of Needs. When making initial contact, it is likely that the parent will want to address the reason you are there prior to discussing other topics. The principles, **Partners Share Power and Judgments Can Wait** are a reminder to pay attention to what verbal and nonverbal responses are communicating, to meet the parent where they are at, and to withhold preconceived notions based on a report.

8. Worker demonstrated curiosity and encouraged parent to share their story.

Give Opportunity for Parent to Share. The principles, **Everyone Needs to be Heard & Understood and Judgments Can Wait**, indicate that the parent needs to have an opportunity to share their perspective and that we need to refrain from drawing conclusions based solely on information in the screening report.

Remember that documentation informs our practice, but does not tell us the full story. Allowing the parent to share their story also allows us to learn about strengths we may not have been aware of previously. This aligns with the principle Everyone Has Strengths.

9. Questions asked gathered information related to the extent of maltreatment domain?

10. Asked questions that gathered information about safety.

11. Asked questions that gathered information about Tami's cultural identity.

12. Gathered information about parent's strengths and/or supports

13. Worker expressed openness and curiosity to learning the parent's perspective on the situation that was reported.

14. Worker asked about whether the parent or their children have any Tribal affiliation.

Tribal Affiliation. ICWA was passed into law in response to the alarmingly high number of American Indian and Alaska Native children being removed from their families and placed outside of their communities. All Indian children deserve a strong, protective circle of caring adults to ensure they are loved, safe, and connected to their community, tribe and culture. The Indian Child Welfare Act

(ICWA) of 1978 is a federal law that recognizes how important those connections are while also ensuring the continued existence of tribal nations as unique, distinct, and sovereign. The inquiry form helps caseworkers better understand if families have Tribal ancestry or membership and when children are protected under ICWA.

15. Worker asked parent to interview their children.

16. Provided parent with the 'What you need to know about a child protective services assessment' pamphlet (1536)?

17. Provided an explanation for the 1536?

1536. It is important for the parent to know what to anticipate and to know what their rights are in the process. Parents need to be able to know who and how to contact people involved in their assessment. Providing information in writing and confirming understanding ensures that the parent has access to information after you leave. This relates to the principles of **Everyone Deserves to Be Heard and Everyone Deserves Respect**.

18. Told the parent what the next steps are in the assessment process.

Next Steps. An initial contact with a parent will not likely be your last. It is important for the caseworker to respond to a parent's questions and share what to expect throughout the process. This aligns with the principles Partnership is a Process and Sharing Power.