

Working with Families

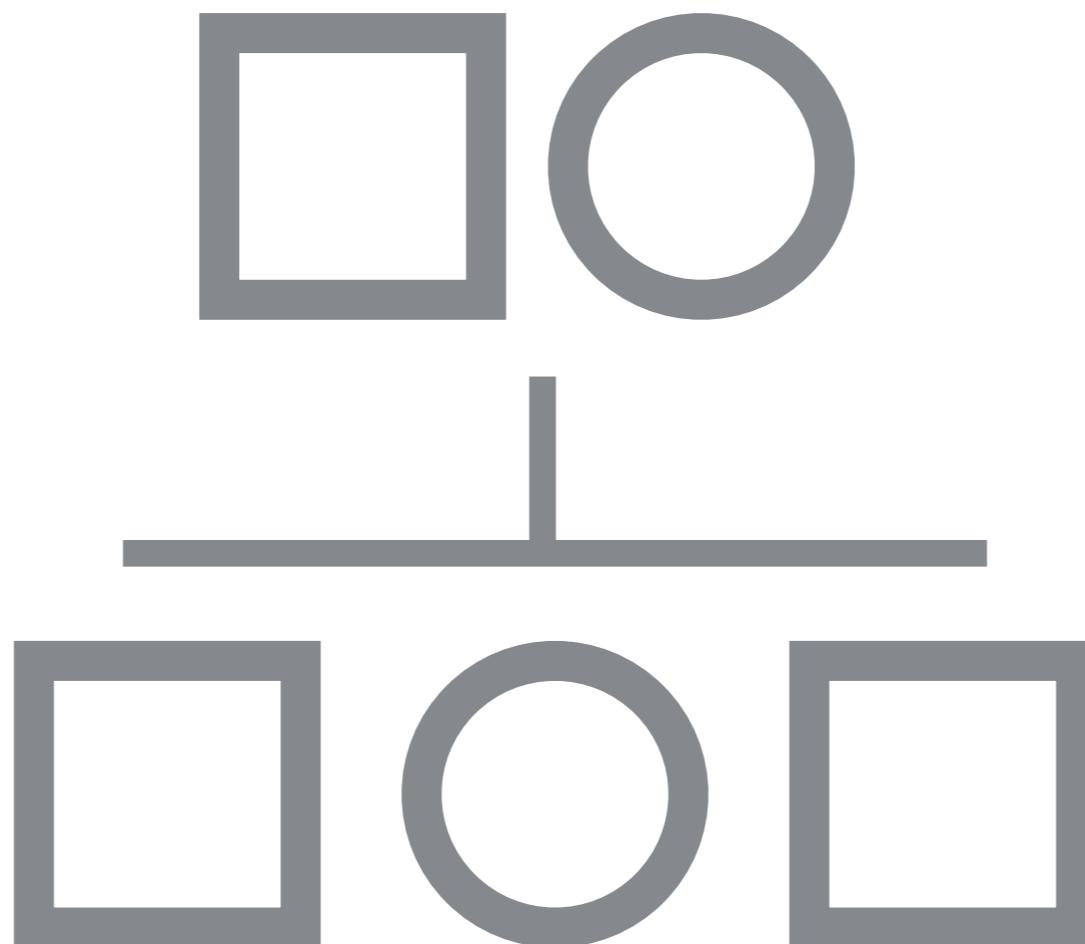


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Heritage University
SOWK 487: Spring 2020
Jacob Campbell, LICSW**

HEY...

HOW YOU DOIN'?

Genogram Cutout Activity



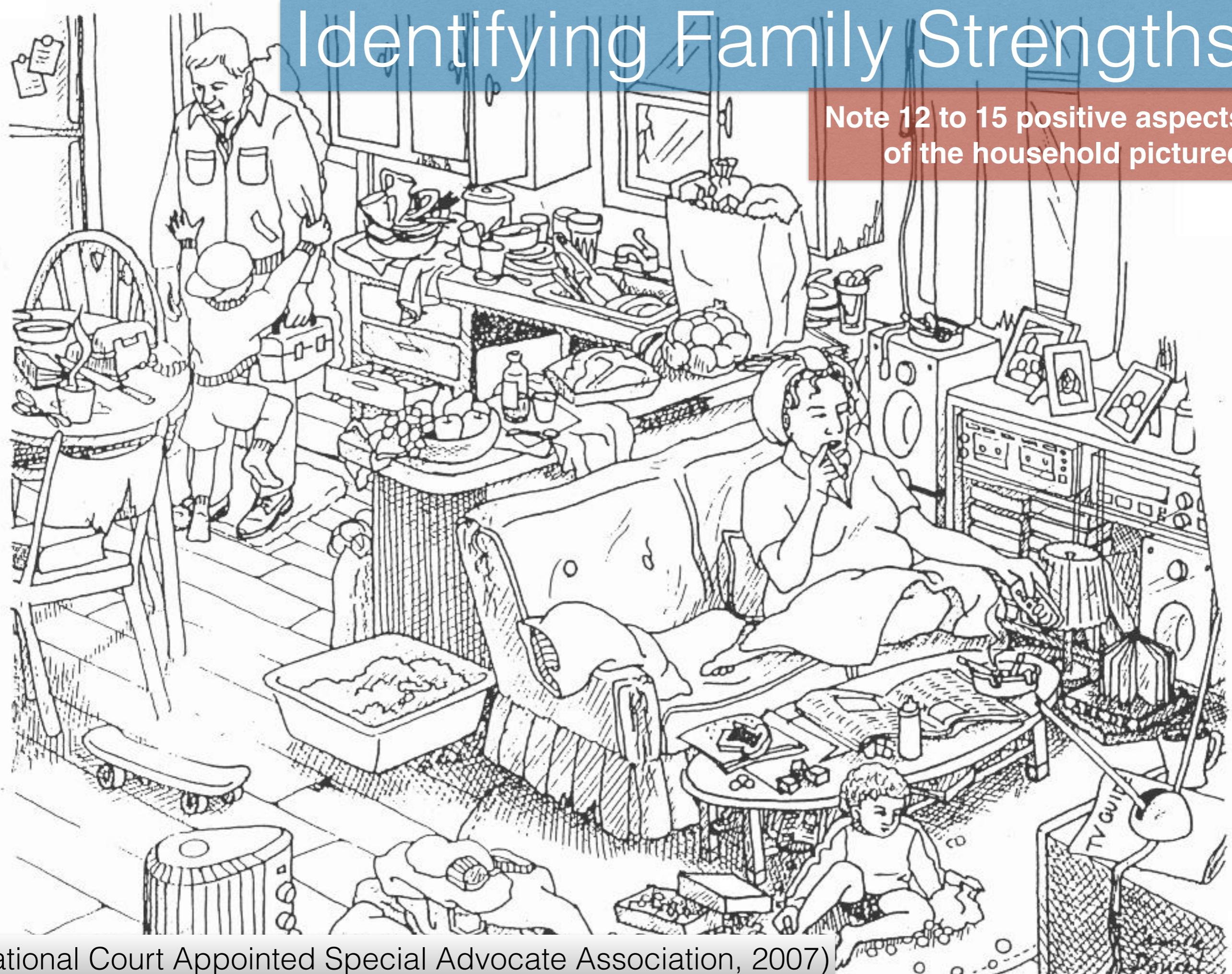
Agenda

- Strengths perspective and families
- Engagement and assessment with families

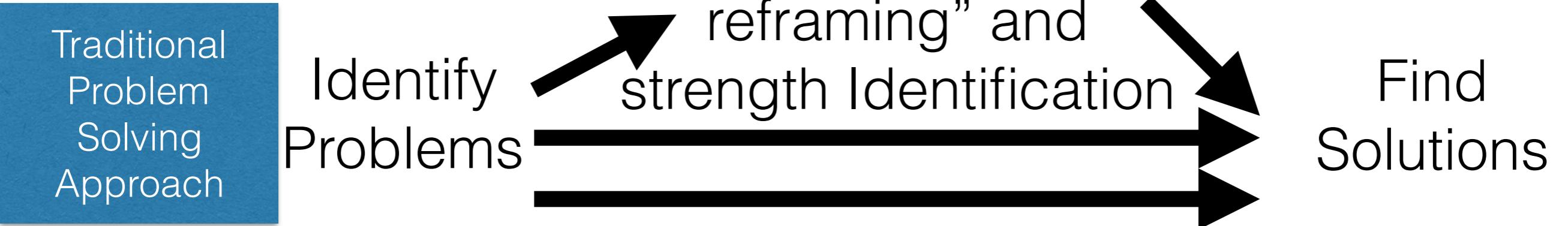


Identifying Family Strengths

Note 12 to 15 positive aspects
of the household pictured



Families and Strengths Perspective



Families and Strengths Perspective

Traditional
Problem
Solving
Approach

Identify
Problems

Possible “positive
reframing” and
strength Identification

Find
Solutions

Strengths-
based
Approach

Identify
Problems

IDENTIFY CLIENT
STRENGTHS AND
RESOURCES

Use
Resources



Families and Strengths Perspective

Strengths-based Approach

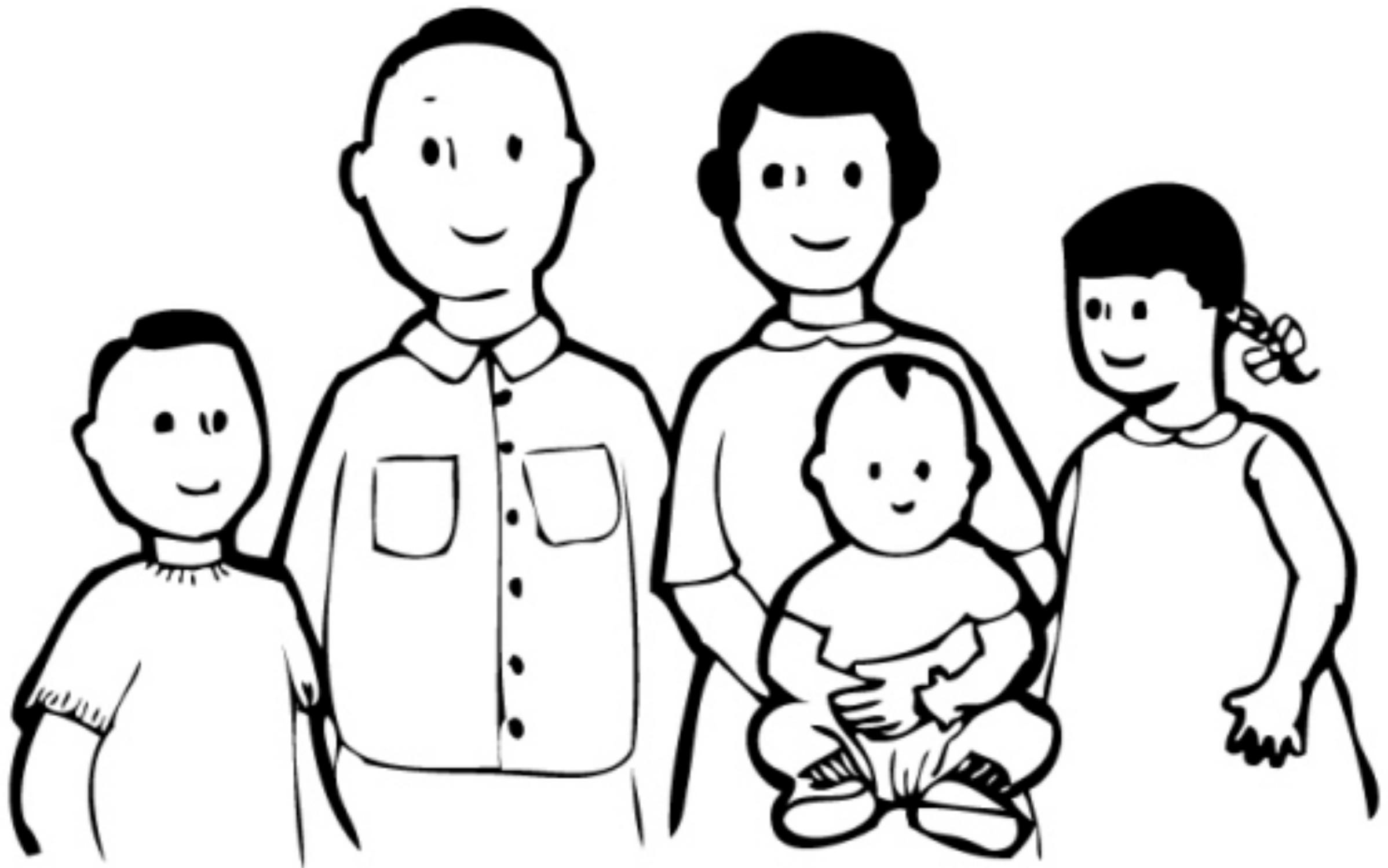


- Build on families strengths
- Work collaboratively
- Help family formulate vision
- Boost participation and involvement
- Utilize environmental modification
- Model high expectations



What Families Provide





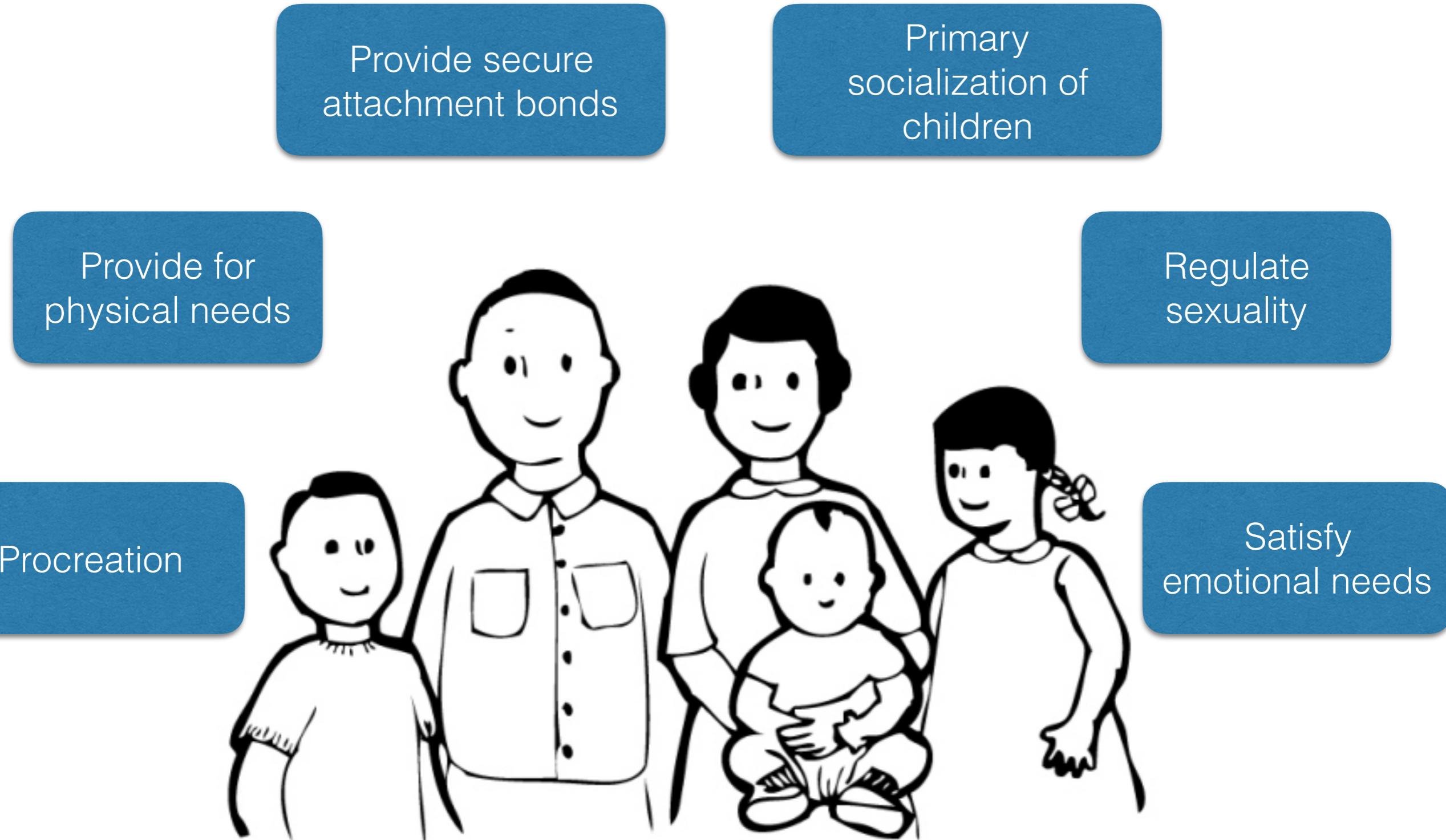
What Families Provide



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What Families Provide

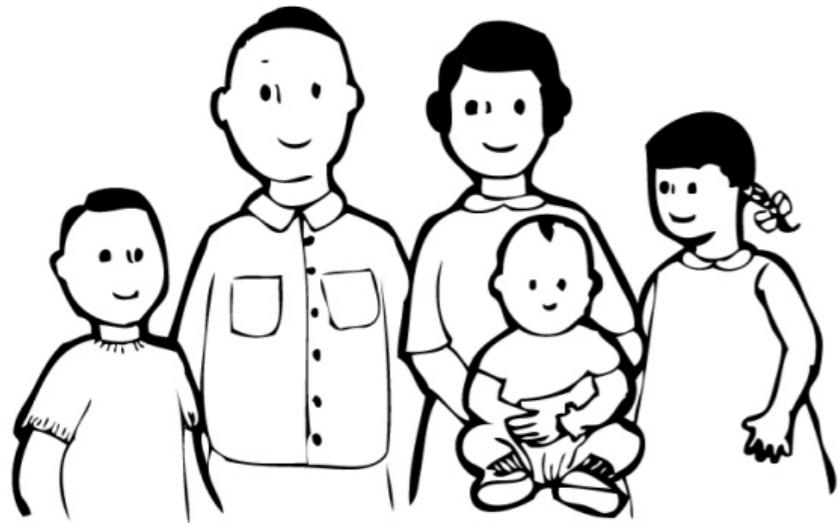


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(Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2015)

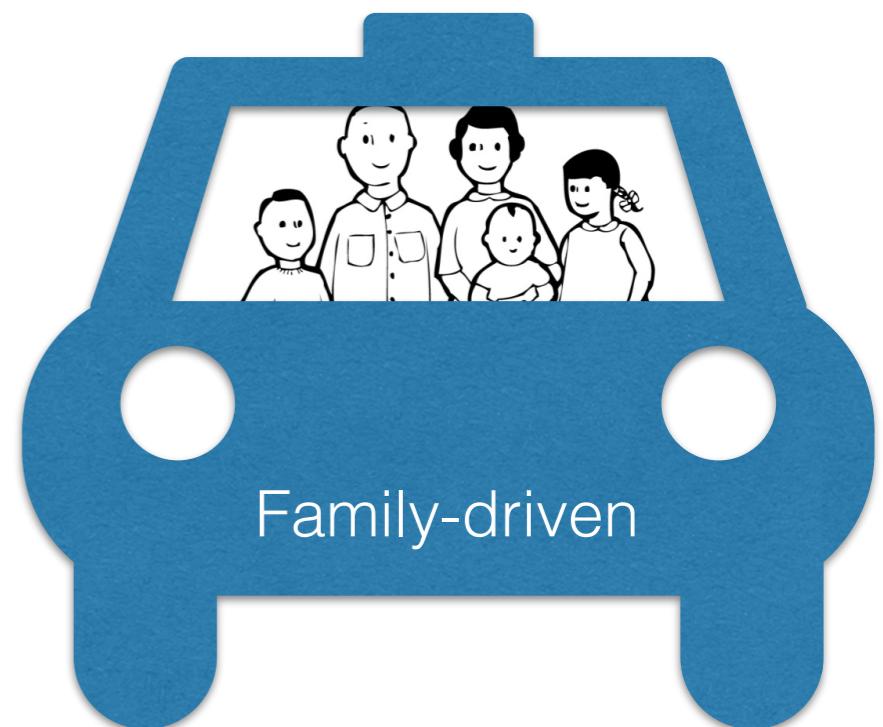
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How Engaged is the Family?



Family-centered



Barriers to Engagement

- Distance from service providers
- Caregiver's work schedule
- Cost of transportation
- Lack of access to transportation
- Child care arrangements
- Cost of child care
- Lack of communication between staff from different programs or agencies
- Lack of open communication
- Lack of opportunity or encouragement to participate in the child's treatment
- Inflexible visiting and meeting schedules
- Lack of clarity about whom to contact with questions and concerns
- Negative staff attitudes about the family
- Restrictive policies
- Lack of consideration for cultural values

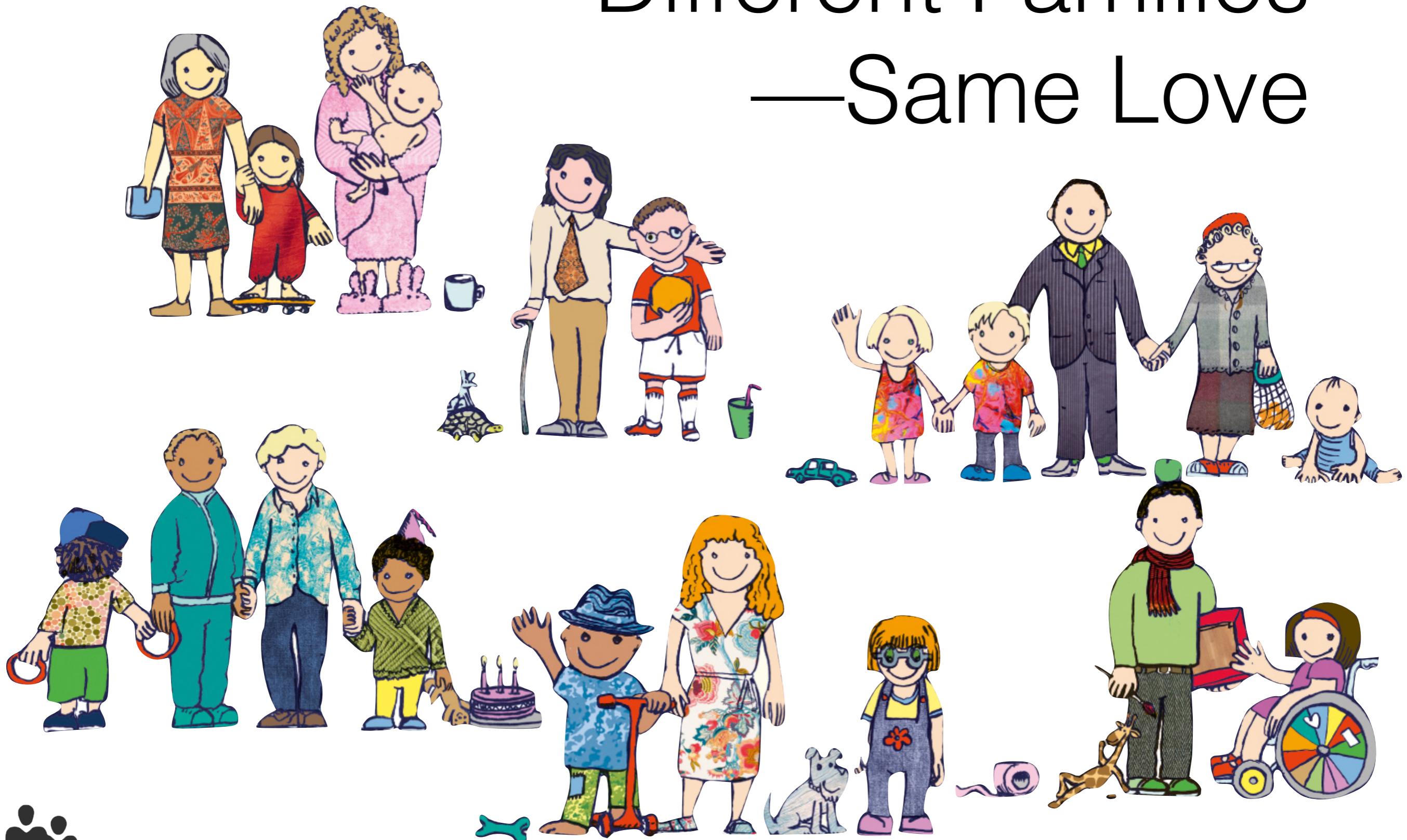


Supports to Engagement

- Provision of a contact person
- Notification of caregiver when something was wrong or if there were health or other concerns about the child
- Flexible scheduling of meetings
- Information about rights and grievance procedures
- Comfortable and private space for meetings
- Prompt return of phone calls
- Inclusion of caregiver's comments in the child's records
- Support for transitions into or out of services or programs
- Communication with all relevant family members
- Help with transportation costs
- Help with telephone costs
- Assistance with child care costs
- Caregiver treated with dignity and respect
- Caregiver made to feel that his or her participation was important
- Caregiver made to feel welcome
- All family members encouraged to participate
- Responsiveness to the family's cultural values



Different Families —Same Love

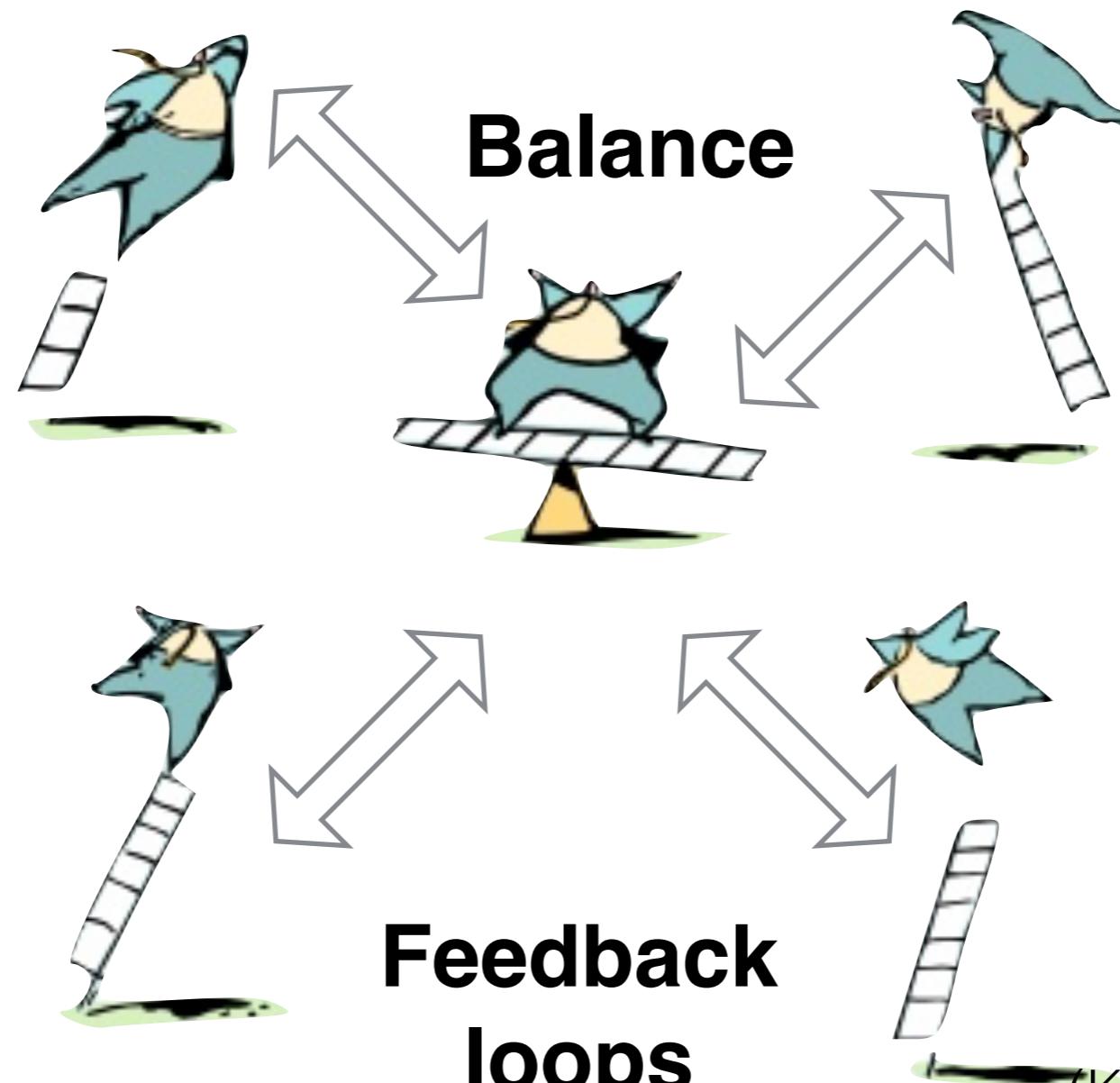


Dimensions of a Family Systems Framework Assessment

- Homeostasis
- Boundaries and Boundary Maintenance
- Family Decision Making, Hierarchy, and Power
- Family Roles
- Communication Styles of Family Members
- Family Life Cycle
- Family Rules
- Social Environment
- Family Adaptive Capacity (Stressors and Strengths)



Homeostasis



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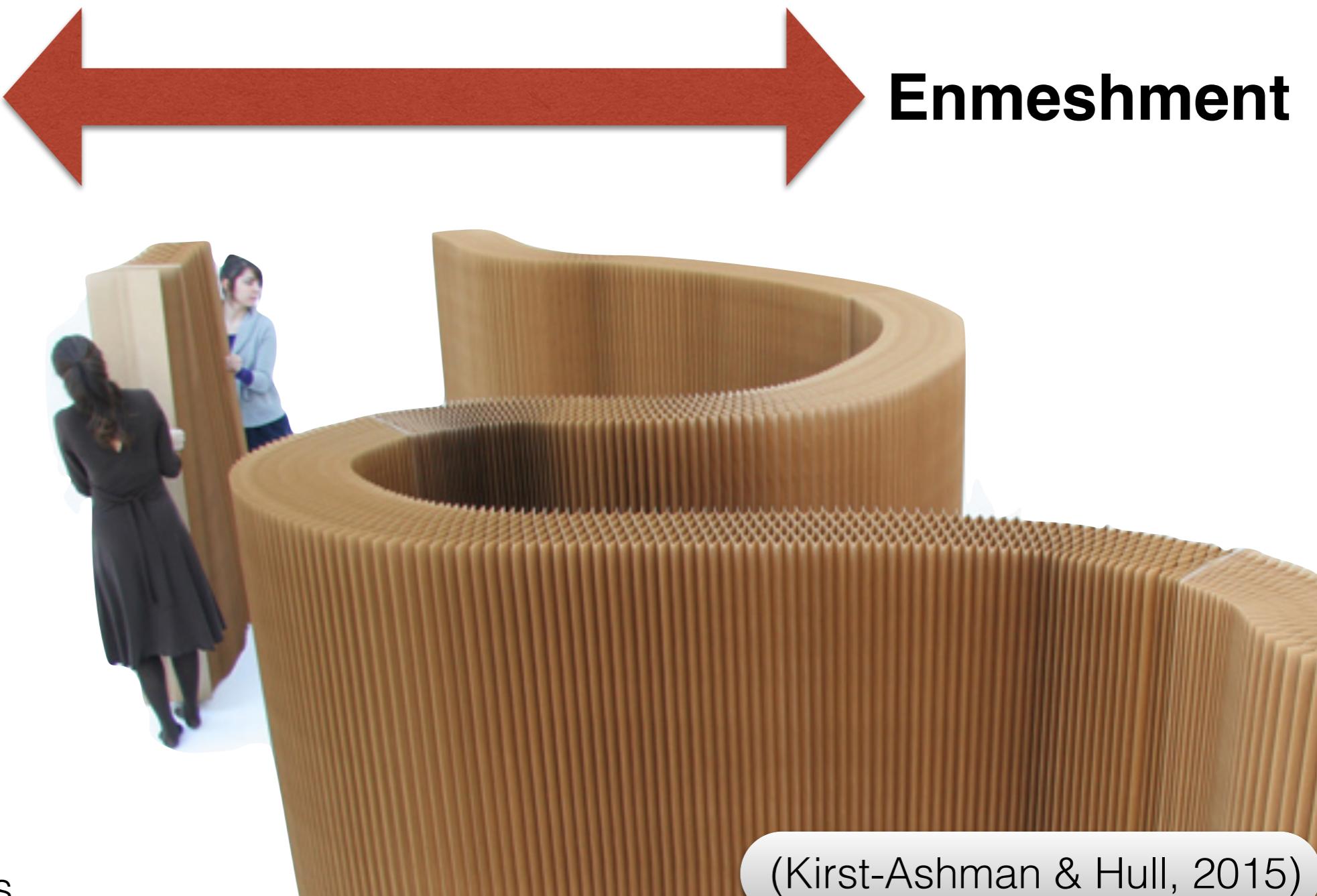
(Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2015)

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Boundaries & Boundary Maintenance

Disengagement

Enmeshment



Internal vs.
External

Unique

Subsystems



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(Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2015)

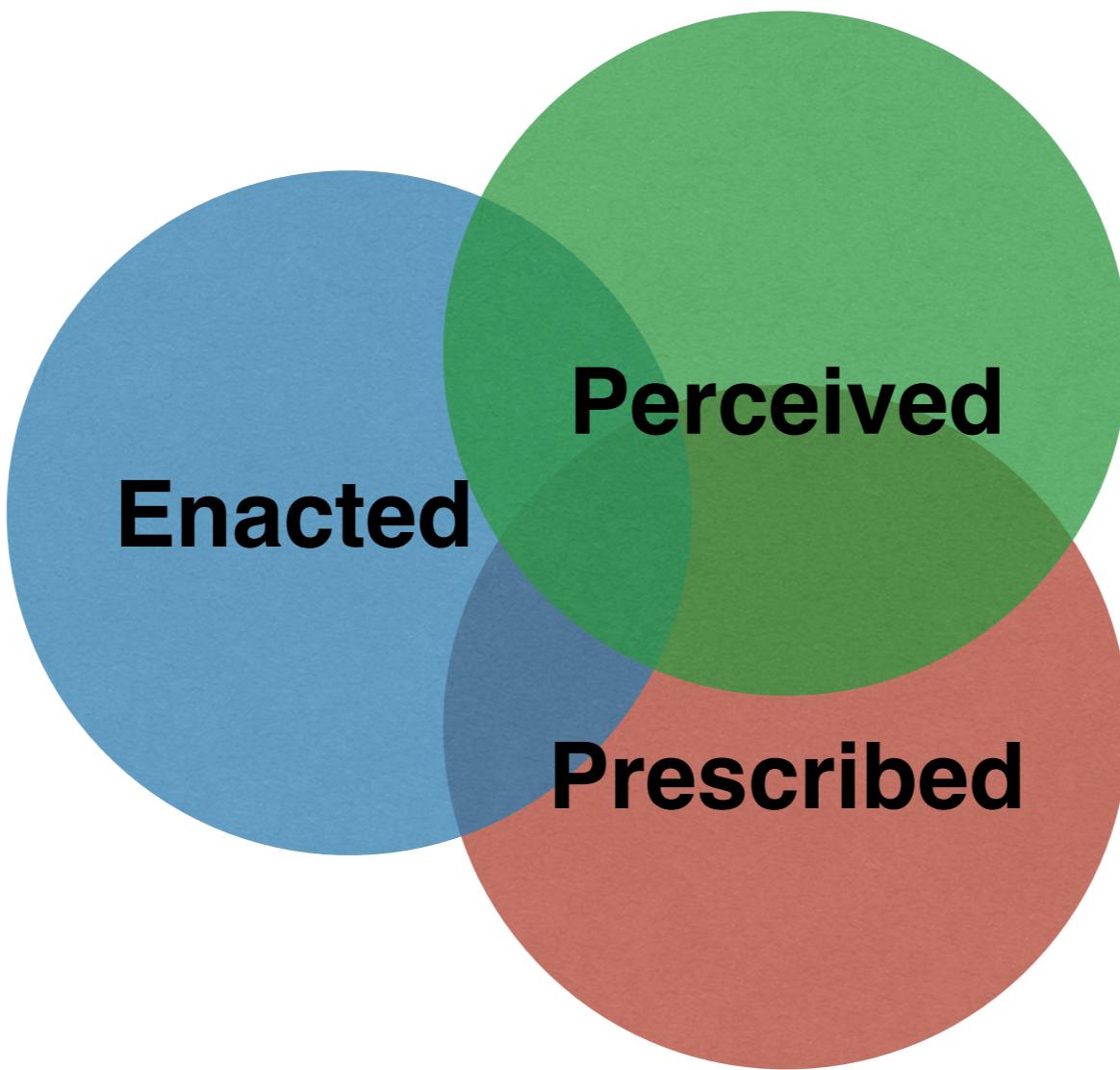
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Family Decision Making, Hierarchy, and Power

- Historic / Context
- Reason for distribution
- Covert power
- Power flexibility
- Family perspective



Family Roles



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What About Your Family?

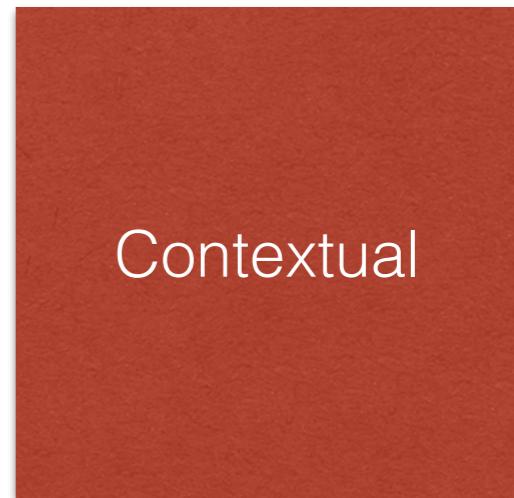
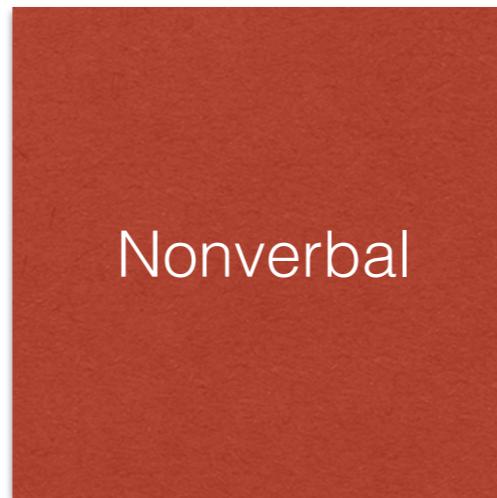
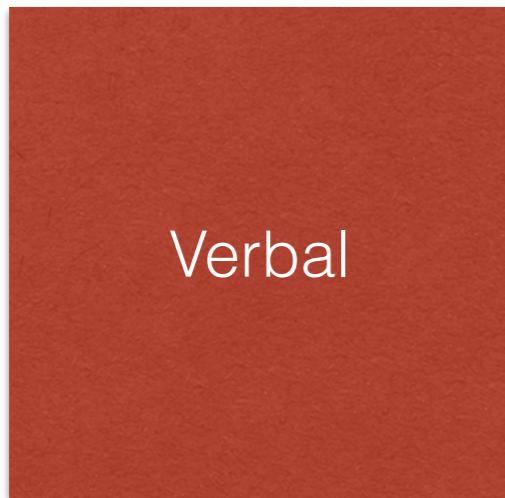
Members
Roles
Norms
Values
Rules



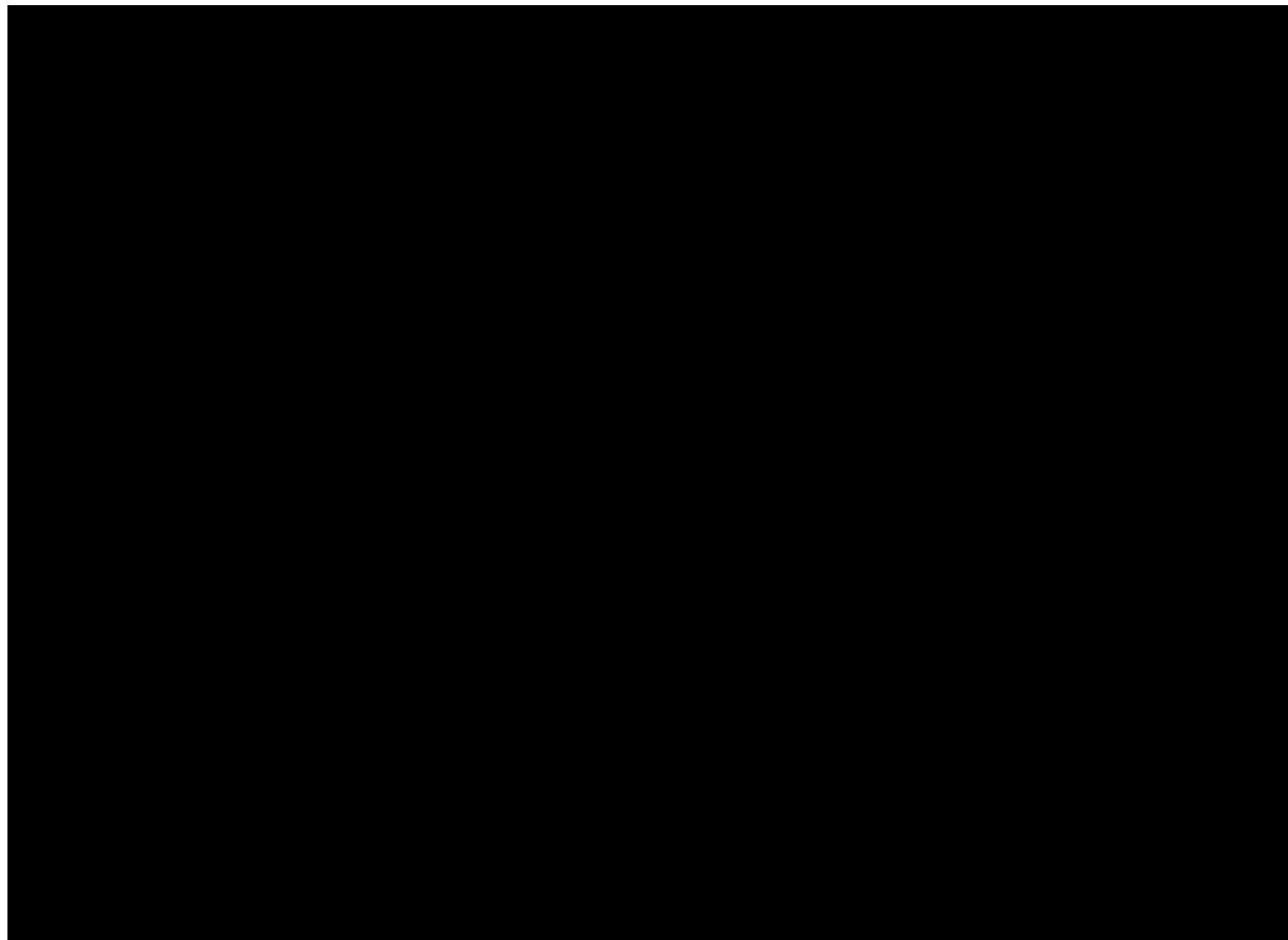
Communication Styles of Family Members



Congruence and Clarity
of Communication



Communication Styles of Family Members

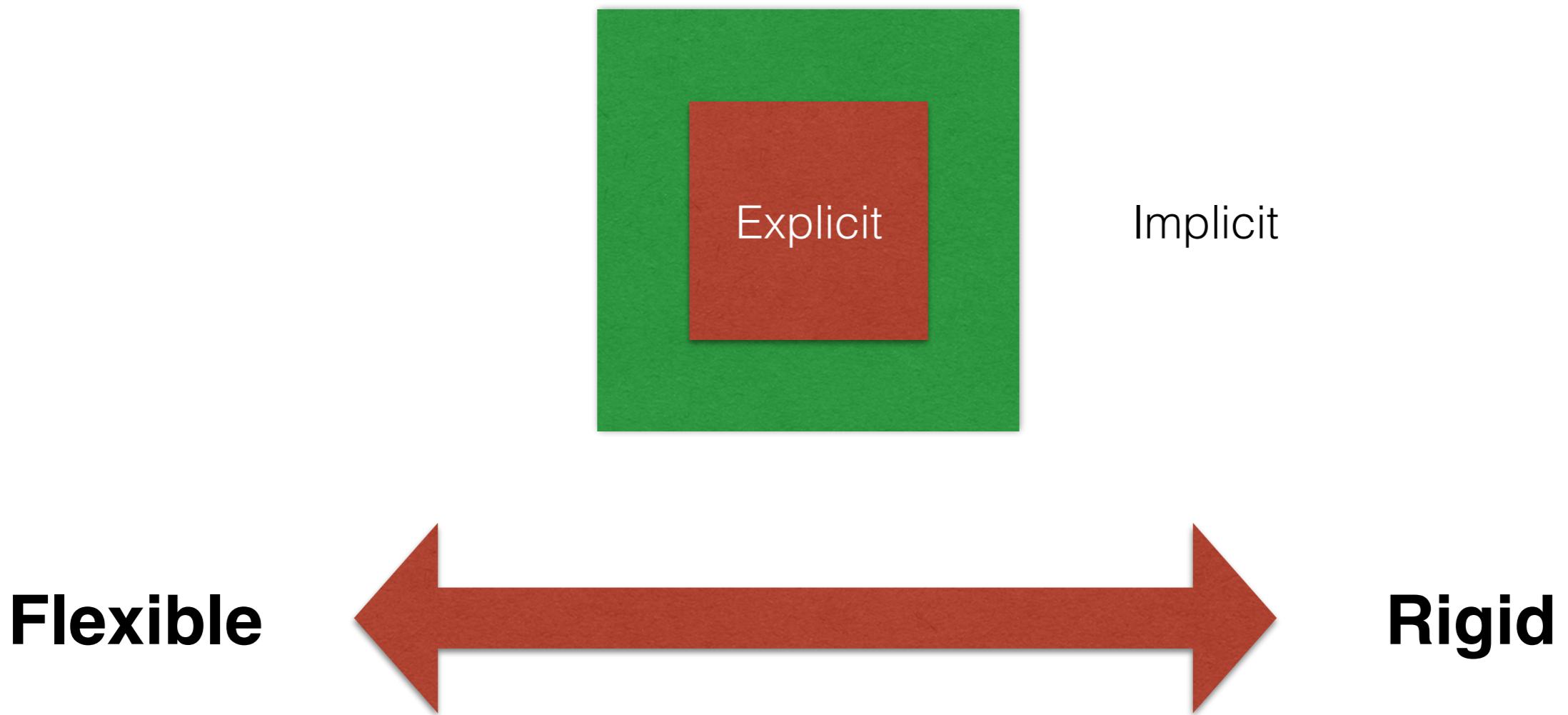


Family Life Cycle

1. Unattached young adult
2. New couple
3. Family with young children
4. Family with adolescents
5. Family that is launching children
6. Family in later life



Family Rules





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Family Adaptive Capacity

Family Stressors

Family Strengths & Resilience

Family Cycle
Frequency and Duration
Magnitude and Number

Social support
Internal cohesion and commitment
Creativity and flexibility
Appraisal, insight, and meaning
Initiative and achievement
Boundary setting

