“There is hardly anything so necessary as the ability to distinguish between that which is important and that which is not.”

-William Barclay

Domain Dialogue...How is it structured?

Child Functioning

Child’s Name: This domain seeks to answer, who is this child? Your focus should be on the child’s general mood and temperament on a daily basis. Are there special developmental or medical needs? You are seeking to understand if this child has any serious emotional symptoms, lacks behavioral control, or has self-destructive behaviors that the caregivers are unable/unwilling to manage. In order to answer this, information needs to be obtained regarding this child’s daily activities and physical capacity, not just how this child was on the incident date.

Sources/Interviews (separately/privately), collaterals and observations:
Example: Jada Owens/mother, Bobby Owens/father, Selina Owens/child, Julia Owens/sibling, Ms. Avery Vega/teacher, Juanita Torres/maternal grandmother.

enerate The above list of names should be those you’ve interviewed or collaborated with to gather information on this child. Did you speak to this child’s teacher? Did you speak to this child’s doctor, a relative, or a therapist? Be sure to document what the parents and siblings said about this child as well. Document the list of all relevant collaterals in this section.

Analysis:
Each child will have an analysis section, as children all function and behave differently within a family. Your analysis should reconcile what the collected information means for each child and help determine child vulnerability. How does the information you have collected “inform” the danger threat pertaining to child functioning? Do you have the lack of or presence of caregiver protective capacities, an identified danger threat, and a vulnerable child to the danger threat associated with this domain? How does that all fit together?

The danger threat related to child functioning is: “Child shows serious emotional symptoms requiring intervention and/or lacks behavioral control and/or exhibits self-destructive behavior that the Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is unwilling or unable to manage.”

Stay tuned for next month’s Practice Points to Ponder - - - Pam Aeppel & Shawna Thomas

Collaborating to support and sustain our new practice model