



Turning Questions into Conversations

EARS Process for Signs of Safety Mapping



	Worries	Strengths	Goals
E Elicit First question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are we worried about? • What harm has happened to any child in the care of these adults? • What is the danger to this child if left in the care of this mother? • What makes this situation more complicated? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's working well here? • What are the best attributes of this mum's/dad's parenting? • What would the child say are the best times she has with her dad? • When has the mum fought off the depression and be able to focus on the child? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What needs to happen? • What do you need to see to be satisfied the child is safe enough that we can close the case? • What would the mum say that would show everyone the child can come home? • Where would the teenager say he wants his life to be at 18? • What do we need to do to create a relationship where we can talk about difficult issues?
A Amplify Behavioural detail: What would you see?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When has that harm happened? • How often; how bad? • How did that incident affect the child? • What language can we use to say that so the mum and child can easily understand? • How long has this harm been happening? • Give me the first, worst and most recent examples of harm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When has that good thing happened? How often? • How did the mum fight off the depression? How else? • How does the neighbour help? • How did you get her to open up? • How is the parenting programme making things better for the child? • What did the dad do to make those contact visits really enjoyable for his kids? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the details of the behaviour you would want to see that would tell you this child is safe? • How many people do you think should be involved in this safety plan? • What is the father's willingness/capacity to do this? • Is this plan written in a way the child understands it? • How will the mental health services involvement help make this plan work?
R Reflect Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which of the danger statements do you think is the most important (or easiest) to deal with first? • Which danger would worry the parents most? • Of all the complicating factors which do you think is the most important to deal with? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which of the strengths are most useful in terms of getting this problem dealt with? • Which aspects of their parenting/family life would mum and dad be most proud of? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you rate the child's safety with this mother on a scale of 0-10? • Is this a plan that the parents believe in? On a scale of 0-10, what confidence would they say that they have in it keeping the child safe?
S Start over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any worries that we have missed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any other good things happening in this family that we have missed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any other important things that we have missed in the plan?