



# SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Page 1

Use this worksheet to obtain a family violence history at the initial visit. This history includes the experiences of parents and, depending on the child's age, the child.

- The first two pages have sample queries that will assist you in assessing the parents' social connections with others who might help care for their child, a necessity for successful parenting.
- The last page, *People who can help with \_\_\_\_\_*, is an individualized resource for parents. Parents are asked to begin filling this out while in the waiting area. Encourage parents to complete the worksheet with names and numbers and place it in their home where it can be easily used in an emergency.

Please recognize that some responses to these questions may reveal information about fighting in the home and/or domestic violence. If this occurs, you will need to follow established office protocols.

Since this may be a sensitive area for some, consider using the sample dialog provided. After awhile, you will develop your own way of asking. Remember:

- Ask gently.
- Try not to judge.
- Support parents by offering ideas about coping with the behavioral problems that are troubling them the most.
- Place in context of the issues that parents bring to your attention and/or the child's development.

You do not necessarily need to ask all these questions, but should learn to feel comfortable asking about these topics. Please feel free to adapt them to your own personal style.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ MR#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL INFORMATION - FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN OF ANY AGE

1. Who lives with your child (and you)? (Note: 1. If there is a non-custodial parent, ask about that parent's involvement with the child. 2. On a follow-up visit ask – Last time you told me that you lived with \_\_\_\_\_. Have there been any changes in your home since then?)
  
2. Is everyone at home healthy?
  
3. We all have disagreements at home. How does everyone get along? (Note: In some situations you may want to continue with more specific probes such as: Are there times when you or your partner yell or insult the other? Or throw things? Or push, grab, or hit the other?)

4. Who helps you with your children? (Prompts: family, babysitter, neighbor, and friends.) Did you get a chance to complete the *People who can help with \_\_\_\_\_*, worksheet? (Note: It may be helpful to make a copy of this worksheet for the chart. If the parent or guardian cannot complete the section entitled *Lifelines*, use this as an opportunity to find out more about their coping mechanism and social connections).
5. Are there other children your child's age in your neighborhood? Do you know their parents or other adults in their lives who help care for them?
6. Do you spend time with any other parents or adults who care for children?
7. Are you involved in any community/religious groups? Do they have activities for kids? Are there other parents or adults who care for children there? (On follow-up visits ask – Last time you told me that you were involved with \_\_\_\_\_. Have there been any changes in your involvement with these groups since then?)

#### INFANTS AND TODDLERS

1. All parents have moments when their infant makes them very upset or angry. What do you do when this happens to you?
2. Who do you ask for help or support when your baby's demands make you feel frustrated?

#### PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH

1. How welcome do you feel at your child's school or childcare facility? How does the school or childcare provider let you know that you are welcome?
2. Who is your child's best friend(s)? How often does your child play with friend(s)?
3. What do you and your child enjoy doing together?
4. What does your family enjoy doing together?