

Bridge Meeting

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____
Parents Names: _____ Phone Number: _____
Foster Home: _____ Phone Number: _____
Date & Time of Placement: _____
Date, Time, & Location of Bridge Meeting: _____

If it didn't happen, circle one:

Child's family refused

HHS didn't schedule

Foster Parent refused

Child's family unavailable

"This meeting is an opportunity to reduce some of the natural tension and fear that can negatively affect parents and caregiver's ability to work together as a team in the interest of supporting the child(ren). Our goal is to start building the foundation of a positive relationship between the parents of a child and the temporary caregiver of the child so that there is consistent and loving care of the child. We will want to support parents and caregivers getting to know basic information about each other, while also giving parents the opportunity to describe what the child needs to feel cared for. This meeting may have challenging or uncomfortable moment. We want everyone to remember that we are in this room in the interest of giving the child(ren) the best support possible. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to engage in this brave conversation."

HERE ARE SOME PROMPTS FOR THE PARENT TO CHOOSE FROM:

- The thing I love most about my child is _____.
- The thing I want you to know about me is _____.
- The thing I most worry about with my child is _____.
- My child is really good at _____.
- His/her favorite food is _____.
- His/her favorite activity is _____.
- It would help me know that my child is ok if you did _____.
- My child's nickname is _____.
- Something I want you to know about my culture/religion is _____.

HERE ARE SOME PROMPTS FOR THE FOSTER PARENT TO CHOOSE FROM:

- The thing I want you to know about my home/family is_____.
- The reason I decided to become a foster parent is_____.
- I have been a foster parent for ____ years/months.
- Some of the hobbies or recreational activities I enjoy are _____.

HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENT TO CONSIDER:

- What made you want to be a foster parent?
- What is your home like?
- What are your favorite holidays? How do you celebrate them?
- Do you have other children in the home?
- Do you have pets?
- If you have been a foster parent before, can you tell me ways that you assisted the parent in communicating with the child's parent(s)?
- How is my child adjusting to your home?

HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE FOSTER PARENT TO CONSIDER:

- What else do you want me to know about your child?
- What can I do to help you keep connection with you child?
- What are your favorite holidays? How do you celebrate them?
- Is there a typical daily routine that your child knows?
- Anything your child likes or dislikes?
- What is your best memory of your child?
- How does your child like to be comforted and cared for?
- What is your child's best subject in school?
- What is your child's most challenging subject in school?

FACILITATOR

- School/child care arrangements, including busing and special education services.
- Information on other family members, siblings, or peers that should be shared.
- Preferred method of communication. Method and frequency of communication.
- Digital communication and social media expectations.
- Information related to the Family Interaction Plan and scheduling.
- Plan for next contact.

FOLLOW UP:

- Did the Bridge meeting help increase communication and teamwork between parents and caregivers?
- What is gained/lost holding Bridge meeting virtually?
- When is supervisory support needed for the Bridge meeting facilitation?