



Critical Thinking Skills and Decision Point Questions

Critical Thinking Skills
Organize the initial information and separate facts from assumptions.
Recognize the likelihood of bias in your personal opinions.
Temporarily suspend judgement.
Develop as many hypotheses as you can that could explain or account for the behaviors or conditions related to allegations of abuse or maltreatment.
Examine and follow up on insufficient information.
Recognize the limitations in your knowledge and draw upon available resources.
Look for patterns that appear during the case, rather than only examining singular facts.
Question your own assessments and consider all associated case implications.

Decision Point Questions
Is this a family we should serve?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the children safe? • Have any of the children been abused or mistreated? • Are any of the children at risk of... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ future harm? ○ being placed outside of the home? ○ not achieving their outcomes?
Is change necessary?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What (if anything) needs to change?
How should this family be served?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions should be taken to influence change? • Should specific services be added, modified, or stopped? • Do any of the identified goals need to be updated or changed?
When do we end our involvement?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has progress been made toward the achievement of goals? • Has the level of risk decreased, increased, or remained the same? • Are the children safe?

The Platinum Rule
“Treat others the way THEY want to be treated.”
The platinum rule differs from the golden rule by asking us to intentionally treat others the way they prefer to be treated. The platinum rule requires more intent from us to understand how others want to be treated, rather than assuming that our natural way of interacting works well for everyone.
The six principles of partnership help to build our capacity to apply the platinum rule. Consistent application and practice results in more effective partnerships and increased outcome achievement.

The Principles of Partnership	
1. Everyone Desires Respect	4. Judgments Can Wait
2. Everyone Needs to be Heard	5. Partners Share Power
3. Everyone Has Strengths	6. Partnership is a Process

