



# Assessor Training

Post-Training  
Skill-Building  
Assignment #1

## Family and Child Assessment

### FROM THE FIELD

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*“Completing an adoptive family assessment is like doing a risk assessment with an imaginary child in the family. You have to imagine whether a child living with this family will have safety, permanence, and well-being today and fifteen years from now.”*

Betsy Keefer, co-author,  
*Telling the Truth to Your  
Adoptive or Foster Child:  
Making Sense of the  
Past* (2000).

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Completing this assignment will help you:

- Use a variety of interviewing strategies to gather pertinent family assessment information;
- Draw accurate conclusions regarding family functioning;
- Document the information in a written report.

### INSTRUCTIONS (USE THE ATTACHED WORKSHEET TO RECORD YOUR WORK)

1. Select a family you are currently assessing for foster care or adoption.
2. Select one of the 10 assessment categories from the JFS 01673.
3. Review the *Family Interview Guide* for suggested questions for the assessment category you haven chosen. Write five questions you may ask during prospective parent interviews to guide your assessment of the family’s functioning within that category. (**Note:** If you have already interviewed the family, what follow-up questions are needed to clarify assessment within the category selected?)
4. Determine what other sources of information might enable you to gather additional assessment data regarding that assessment category.

**INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED)**

5. Identify the family's current level of functioning and note the indicators of the family's functioning within this assessment category. The levels are:
  - Strength:** The family is well prepared and knowledgeable. They have had direct experience of a positive nature in the assessment category.
  - Minimal:** The family has a beginning awareness or has had limited, or only recent, positive experience. However, the family is motivated and is capable of developing in the assessment category.
  - Caution:** The family has had no positive experiences and is functioning at a deficit. While the family needs considerable development, they are unwilling or deny the necessity of development.
6. Write up your assessment and review your thoughts and documentation with your supervisor. Determine areas to be further explored or documented. Obtain feedback about the clarity of your ideas.
7. Provide feedback on the assignment by completing an online survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=365843881460>

## Worksheet

### FAMILY AND CHILD ASSESSMENT



The family I am working with is:

The assessment category I chose is:

The five questions I will ask to help me assess this family's functioning in this category are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Other sources of information that might help me gather additional information about this category are:

The family's current level of functioning in this category is:

- Strength
- Minimal
- Caution

I determined this level of functioning based on the following indicators:

### ASSESSMENT WRITE UP

Document your assessment and review your work with your supervisor. Following that review, note three things you learned from this assignment:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### EVALUATION

**OCWTP needs your feedback concerning this assignment. Please go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=365843881460> to complete a short online survey. Thank you for your help!**