

Solution-Focused Inquiry by Program/Activity					
Question Type	First Contact	Investigation and Assessment	Case Plan Formation	Ongoing Safety Assessment	Adoption
Exception	“I understand things are rough right now between you and your daughter. Is this the way things have always been, or has there ever been a time when things were different between the two of you? Can I ask you about that time?”	“Can you tell me about a time when this problem was not happening? When was that? How did you make that happen? What kind of difference did that make for your child?”	“When your wife hit your son, how did you respond? Are you pleased with that response? Why/why not? What else do you imagine you could have done?” (This question can be used to surface an act of protection that can go on the case plan under a safety objective.)	“You said you have hit your son every time he breaks the rules, but then there was that moment last week when it seems like you did something different. Can you tell me more about that time? What exactly did you do? How were you able to do that?”	“You have told me about some of the real challenges you have faced with Timmy since he joined your family. But can you tell me if there has been a time when you weren’t feeling so challenged, and you were able to enjoy Timmy’s company?”
Coping	“I know it must be hard having me in your home right now, but we do need to have this conversation. Do you have any ideas for what we could do to help you, so we can move forward and do the work we need to do? What would help?”	“I imagine these children are a real handful. I’m sure they keep you on your toes all day. How do you keep going day after day? What seems to help?”	“How did you manage to stay sober for a whole week? Considering how long you’ve been drinking, and how tough this week has been for you, it must have been very hard to do. What helped you get through the craving?”	“You have said that you can see how much safer your daughter is now that your boyfriend who hurt her is not allowed to have contact with her. How are you dealing with this separation? What is keeping you going?”	“How did you come up with the idea of just taking a moment off and laughing to yourself?? That was clever!”
Preferred Future	“Let’s imagine it’s three months from now and you and I have gotten off to a really good start to working together. What does it look like? What needs to happen to make this so?”	“You are pretty clear that this isn’t how you want things to be. How would you like things to be instead? (DETAILS!) What would need to happen to get things there?”	“Let’s say it’s six months from now and all the problems that brought us into your life are totally resolved. What would it look like? What steps would you have had to take to get there?”	“Let’s pretend you have been sleeping for six months and you just woke up. What do you notice that is different about your family now from before? How are your children safer?”	“Ten years from now, when your child is older, what story do you hope he/she tells about being adopted? What would you need to do to help make that story a reality?”

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Scaling	<p>“I realize that my visit has caught you off guard. Just so I can get a sense for how you feel, on a scale of 0–10, if 0 = you have no idea why child welfare is contacting your family, and 10 = you know exactly why we are here and what this is about, where would you put yourself on this scale?”</p>	<p>“As you know, we are here because there are allegations that your daughter has been molested. On a scale of 0–10, where 0 = there is no way this could be true, and 10 = I am pretty sure this happened, where would you rank this?”</p>	<p>“On a scale of 0–10, with 0 being you do not feel you have what you need to accomplish this goal, and 10 being you have everything you need, where would you say you are on this scale?”</p> <p>FOLLOW UP: “What could happen to bring your rating up one?”</p>	<p>“On a scale of 0–10, where 0 = your child is not safe and will be immediately hurt, and 10 = your child is now completely safe, where would you say things are? What would need to happen to bring things up by one?”</p> <p><i>Add a position question:</i> “What do you think I would say needs to happen to bring things up by one?”</p>	<p>“On a scale of 0–10, where 0 = this does not feel like my forever family, and 10 = this feels like my forever family, where would you rank it? What is happening between you and your adoptive parents that is letting you give the number you are giving?”</p>
Position	<p>“When your daughter is older, what would you want to tell her if someone she was dating started doing to her what your boyfriend has been doing to you?”</p>	<p>“If your son was here right now and heard everything we have been talking about, what do you think he would be most worried about? What would he say is working well? What would he hope we all do next?”</p>	<p>“Your sister has been worried about you and how depressed you have been. If she was here helping us make this case plan, what is one thing she would think is helpful to have on this plan, that would show that you can now safely care for your son?”</p>	<p>“I see you are scaling yourself as a 9 on a scale of 10, indicating you are solidly in recovery from using meth. If your baby could talk, where do you think she would rate you? What do you think would get her to that number? What would her worries be, if any?”</p>	<p>“I know how you feel about Tony’s birth parents, but if Tony was here right now, what questions or worries do you think he might have about his birth parents? What do you imagine he would most want answered today? What do you think he will most want answered in the future?”</p>