

Trauma Informed Removal Process

Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center

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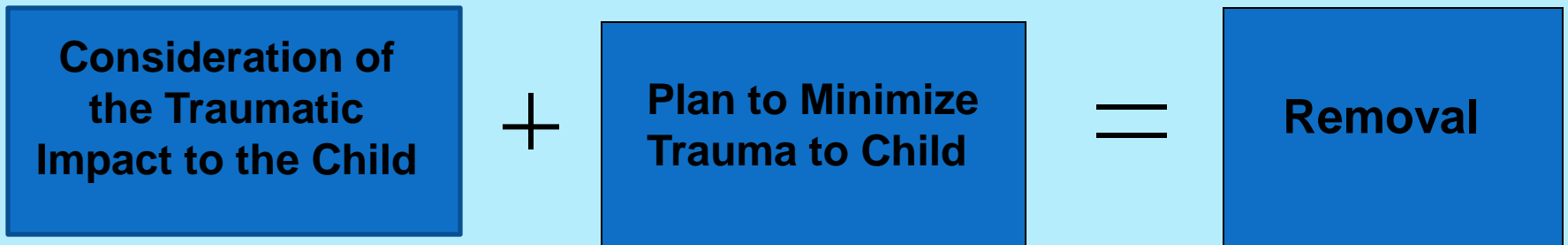
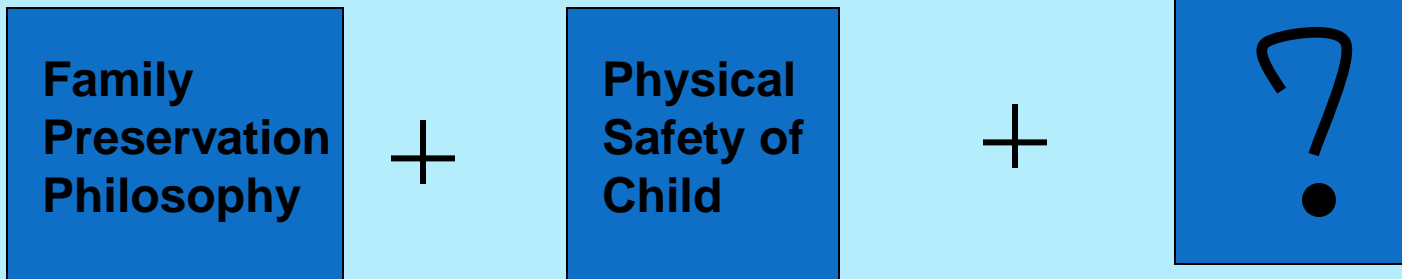
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Trauma Informed Removal Process

Trauma
Informed
Decision
Making for
Removal

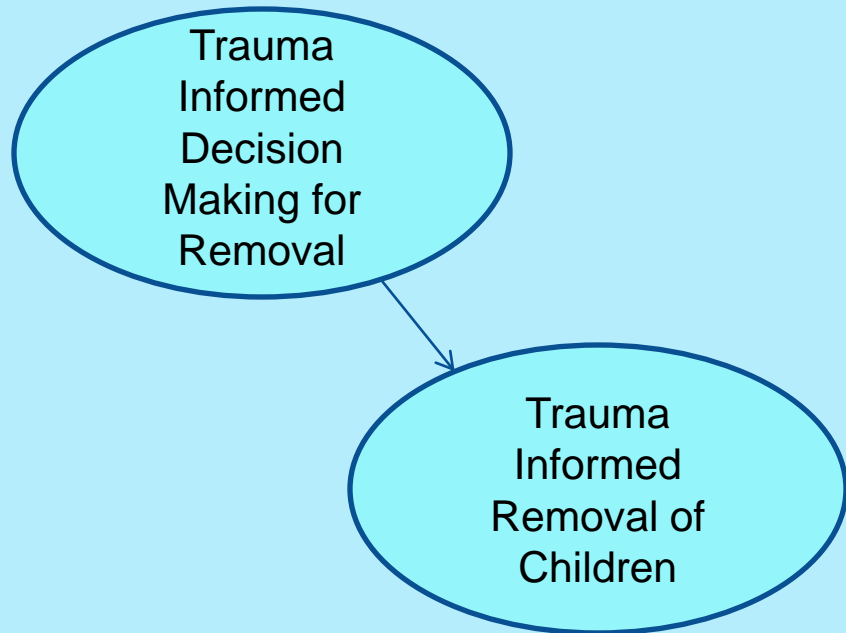
Trauma Informed Decision Making Process






Anticipating child's needs because they are predictable in a removal.

Trauma Informed Removal Process





How do we explain to children the removal
in a trauma informed way?

Prerequisites to TI Removal

- Don't be fooled by how the child is presenting
- Don't wait for the child to ask
 - OUR OWN: Recognition of the difference between pain and trauma
 - OUR OWN: Willingness to recognize my own helplessness in alleviating the pain, but can minimize trauma
 - OUR OWN: Willingness to be with the child's pain
 - OUR OWN: Recognition and taking ownership that my decision created the child's pain and trauma

Trauma Informed Steps with Child at Removal

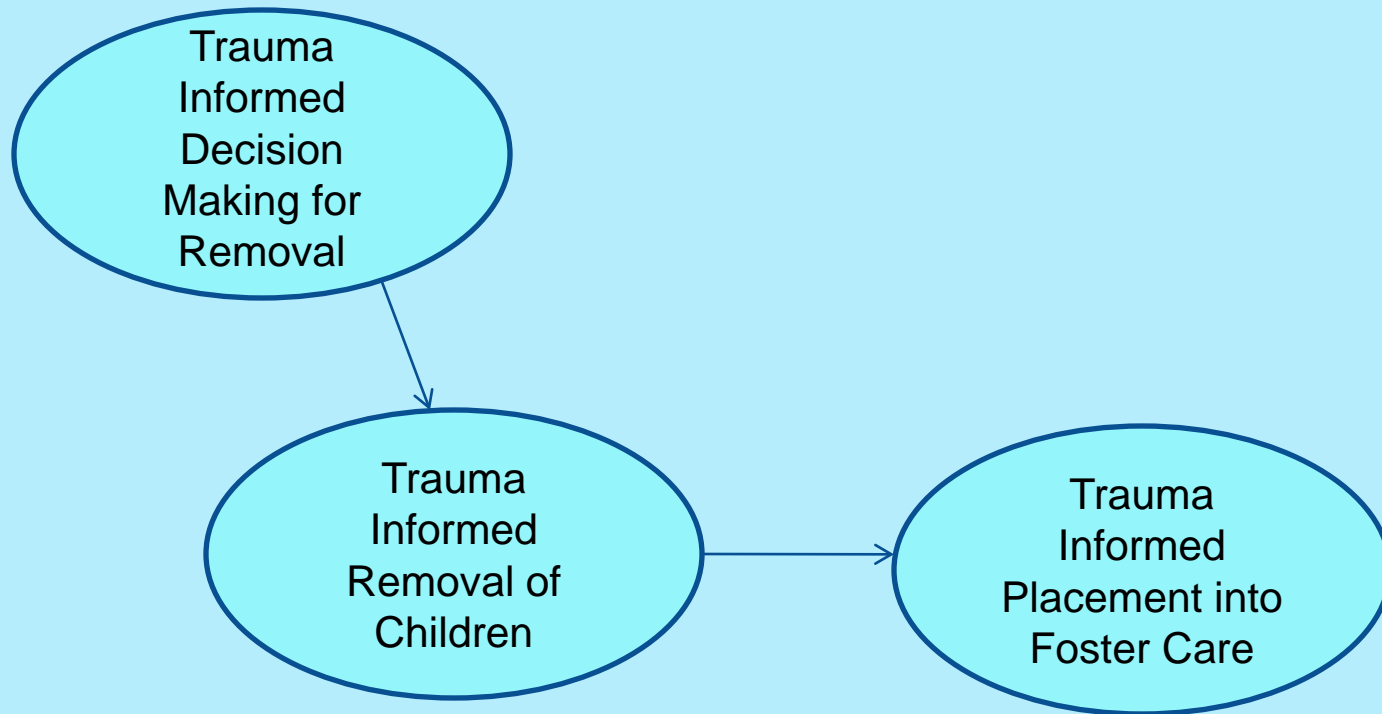
- Identify what is happening and going to happen for the child
- Identify common feelings that children usually have
- Identify common thoughts that children usually have
- Explain your role in providing what you believe will be safe for a child

- Elicit questions from the child
- Ask what the child needs from their home that gives them comfort
- Ask the child what the he/she needs to feel safe

How do you respond to the child's questions in a trauma informed way?

- Why can't I stay with my parents?
- You can't do this. I love my parents. How come you want to hurt me?
- What will happen if I do not go with you?
- How long will I be in foster care?
- When can I see my parents again?
- How come you are separating me from my siblings?

Trauma Informed Removal Process




Key Processes in Transition

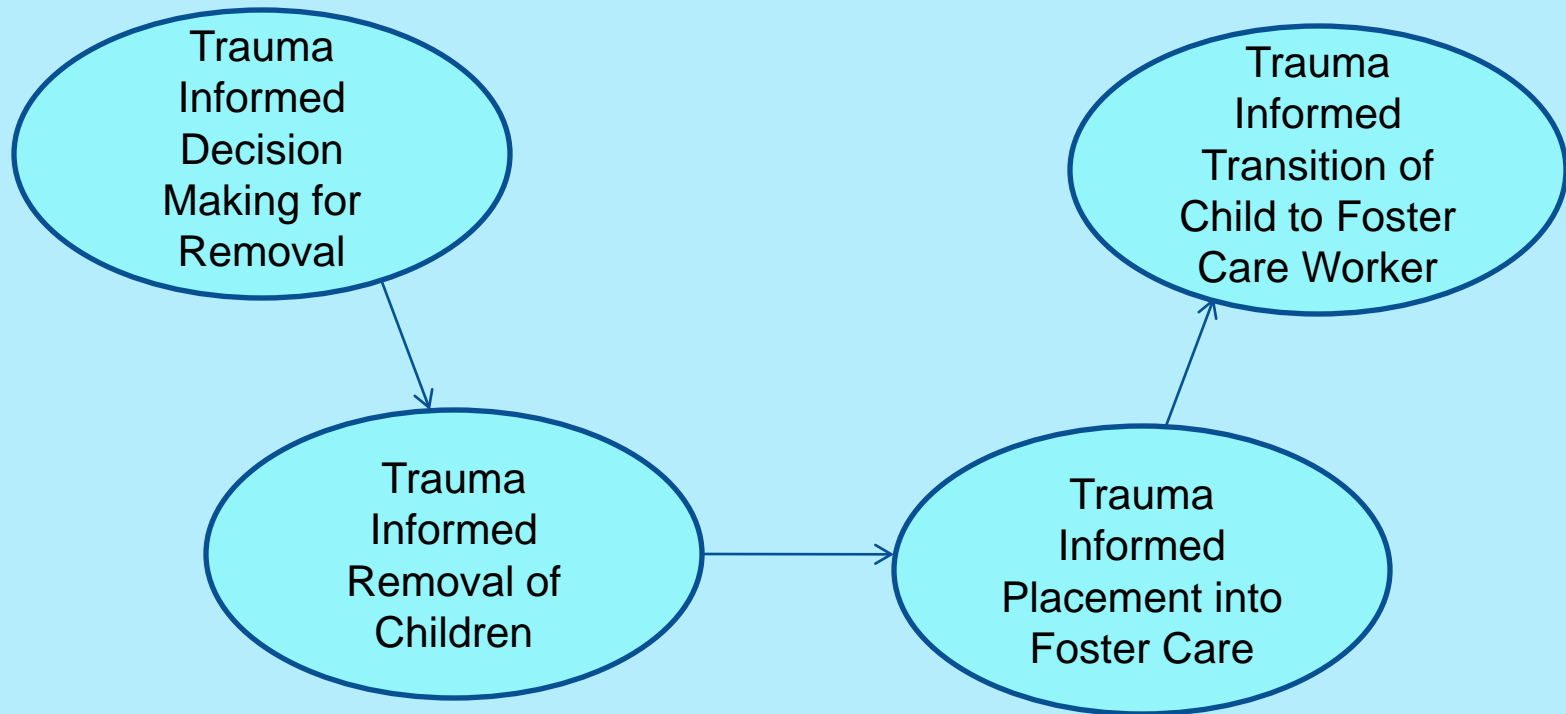
- Create Safety for child
- Psychoeducation to normalize
- Empower through predictability
- Relational continuity
- Invite and affirm expression of feelings

Transition to foster care

- What do we say to foster parents/kinship to create appropriate transition for the child?
- Be prepared to stay for awhile
- Ask the child in the presence of the foster parent what will help them feel safe.
- Ask about routines, especially for the rest of the evening and the next day to provide predictability

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- Be willing to look around the house and the bedroom of the child to help in the transition
 - Ask what the bedtime routine is
 - Ask about special rules the family has

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Worker Transition Challenges

- Why I don't make contact?
 - Too busy
 - The quicker I pass the case on the faster I can attend to other things
 - Don't want to disturb the child's transition by making it worse by triggering them by my presence
- IN REALITY:
- IS IT JUST TOO PAINFUL????????????

Reasons to see child

- Your presence brings an opportunity to process what has occurred.
- Your presence offers the child an opportunity to gain information and ask questions.
- During the removal crisis you provided safety and support that created increased relatedness and comfort

- You are not abandoning the child like others have done in the past
- Confidence in the system professionals is built on having contact with the workers
- IN REALITY:
- YOU ARE THE LINK TO THEIR PARENTS!!!!!!!