



THINGS TO TRY GREATEST HITS

1. Think about a family on your caseload that seems the most hopeless, has the greatest danger. What is it like to think about the abuse and the person separately? To what degree are you able to hold respect for the family? Can you identify ANY sign of safety?
2. Notice the language you use about the families with whom you work. Are you able to use behavioral detail (not labels) to describe the family? Can you keep the focus on the impact of those behaviors on the children? What makes it hard to do that?
3. Think about the families you are working with right now. On a scale from 0-10, with 10 being "I really know this child's perspective very well" and 0 being "I don't really understand this child's perspective at all" which children do you feel like you know the best? Which the least? Which children are you working with that would most benefit from a Three Houses Interview, a Safety House Interview, or just another conversation?
4. Pick one area that is included in most SDM[®] assessments (i.e., substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence). Look at the SDM definitions related to that area when assessing safety vs. risk vs. needs. What exception questions can you think of that would assist you in scoring that area? Are the questions the same? Different?
5. Pick a family you are working with where you feel "stuck". Ask your supervisor, practice leader or coach to map it with you. NOTE: be prepared to describe your purpose, and if you are at a key decision point, have any relevant SDM assessments with you---either already done, or ready to do).
6. When you are creating a case plan, try putting the Danger Statement and Safety Goal on the front page of the case plan.
7. Bring blank sheets of paper into the field and draw three columns on the paper. Write the three questions at the top and use this as a framework for your interview with the family. You can do this no matter which program you are in.
8. Listen for *already existing* network members when families are telling you their story – extended family, neighbors, friends and formal providers. Who are the people who the family is *already connected* with? Who is *already helping them* in one-way or another? Who does it appear they already trust?
9. Practice explaining what an ongoing safety plan is. Start by thinking of words that work for you and just thinking it through yourself. Then try these words with a co-worker and get feedback on how clear you are. Then, explain an ongoing safety plan to a family and network where you need to co-create one.
10. Try observing acts of protection that mitigate the danger (safety) during a visit.