Expanding the Family Circle
Module V

MICRO LEVEL
Micro-level: Individual and Family

- Family characteristics and family sub-systems are mapped at the Micro level.
Micro Level
Individual and Family Level

Personal Characteristics: temperament, intelligence and determination intersect with factors such as class, race, and gender to define an individual

These categories are fluid and flexible

Individual characteristics and behaviors are open to change when there is support
Your Case

Think about the individuals in the cases you brought.

Think about their environment, their social privilege or entitlement, their access to moderating factors from the mezzo level and their family characteristics.
Family Characteristics

What are some family characteristics that may help to moderate an individual’s experience and influence from the Macro level?
Family Characteristics

- Good communication skills
- Openness,
- Spirituality/faith/religiosity
- Hard working
- Supportive of each other
- Balanced power structure
Couples

The strength of a couple plays a direct role in the safety and stability of a child’s home.
In a national study of children known to Child Protective Services, of children living with a biological parent, one-third of those parents were married.
True or False?

In a study of unmarried cohabiting parents who had just given birth to a child, 80% said they planned to get married.

Some unmarried couples say they are waiting to be economically secure before they get married.
Societal Factors

We are all influenced by societal factors, such as power and privilege as well as community issues such as unemployment and family issues such as health or religion.

There may be moderating factors which influence how we perceive the world around us—factors which influence the way our story goes.
A positive school experience or caring teacher may boost a child’s self-esteem or a grandparent may model an alternative parenting style.

Unless we know their story from the other person’s perspective, we cannot make accurate assessments for safety or planning.
Story

As families share their stories with each other and with us, they have already begun to validate where they have come from and decide where they want to go.

Working **with** families we can improve our **ongoing work** to achieve the **child welfare outcomes** of permanency and safety.
Privilege Walk

The following activity is designed to help us recognize how power and privilege can affect our lives even when we are not aware what is happening.

The purpose is to help us identify both the obstacle and benefits we have experienced.
PRIVILEGE WALK

• This activity is to help us recognize how power and privilege affect our lives even when we are unaware that it is happening.

• It is not to blame anyone, but to give us an opportunity to identify both obstacles and benefits we have experienced.
Privilege Walk Instructions

• Line up across the center of the room.
• Listen to the statements read, and follow the instructions as they apply to you.
• You are the one who determines whether or not the statement applies to you. No one will judge your decision to move or not.
Process Privilege Walk

• What was this experience like for you?
• What was your gut response to your position within the group?
• How did it feel when you moved forward?
• How did it feel to move backward?