

MODULE 3: YARN ACTIVITY: FULLER FAMILY

SUPPLIES: The following items should be gathered or prepared ahead of time:

Ball of yarn (approximately ½ skein rolled into a ball)

Scissors

Scenario of the Fuller family situation

3”X5” index cards with names of Fuller family members & supports from the list below written in bold letters; or name tags with the names written in large letters.

SPACE NEEDED: The size of the space will depend on the number of participants, however it should be large enough to form a wide circle with enough elbow room for each participant to be able to comfortably catch or throw the ball of yarn.

ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS:

- 1) **Inform participants that this is NOT a role play**
- 2) **Ask 18 volunteers to form a circle in the designated area**
- 3) **Hand each person in the circle a card** (if fewer than 18, give some individuals two cards)
- 4) **Explain that he/she represents the person on the card** and ask him/her to display the card so others in the circle can read the name on it
- 5) **Demonstrate how to throw the yarn** while holding on to the end so it begins to form connections from one player to another
- 6) **State:** “When everyone has received a card and taken their place, I will read a case scenario. When you hear the name of person you are representing, raise your hand and the person holding this ball of yarn will toss it to you”
- 7) **Read the Fuller Family Scenario;** make sure the yarn is passed each time a new name is mentioned
- 8) **Process the activity;** ask “What did you learn from this activity? What surprised you? How did it feel?”
- 9) **Demonstrate what happens when one important person is left out;** cut the string to the biological father to show how he may be denied information
- 10) **Demonstrate how it would look if everyone attended a Family Group Conference;** have those in the circle drop the yarn; then hand the ball of yarn to one person and have them pass it to the next person to form a circle of yarn
- 11) **Explain the benefits** (i.e. clear communication; everyone would hear the same information, fewer phone calls to share information, etc.)

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LIST OF FULLER FAMILY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mother – Maria Fuller | 2. Father – John Fuller |
| 3. Maria’s Mother – Lydia Perez | 4. Maria’s dad –Miguel Perez |
| 5. John’s Mother – Ruth Fuller | 6. John’s father – George Fuller |
| 7. Robin’s Godmother- Aunt Tina | 8. Robin’s Godfather- Uncle Paul |
| 9. Robin’s biological father – Tom Garner | 10. School Social Worker – Ms. Hanson |
| 11. Robin’s Teacher – Mrs. Albert | 12. Employment counselor - Linda |
| 13. Homework Support – Mrs. Rodriquez | 14. AA Sponsor |
| 15. Robin’s counselor- Amy | 16. Father McCullough |
| 17. Robin | 18. John’s P.O. – Mr. Harris |

FULLER FAMILY SCENARIO:*

John and Maria Fuller were recently “Hot-lined” for leaving their ten year old daughter, Robin home alone. Maria’s mother and father, Lydia Perez and Miguel Perez, will occasionally watch Robin, but Maria and John don’t like to ask them very often due to Miguel’s poor health. John’s parents Ruth and George Fuller live nearby, but do not have much contact with John and Maria.

Robin stopped attending the after school program at the Community Center. Robin’s teacher, Mrs. Albert said that Robin’s grades have dropped since she stopped getting help from Mrs. Rodriquez, the after school program’s homework support person.

Robin meets with Mrs. Hanson, the school social worker to discuss feelings about not seeing her biological father, Tom Garner. Tom’s brother, Paul, and sister-in-law, Tina, are Robin’s godparents. Tina likes to take Robin shopping, and ice skating.

Maria has contacted Linda, her employment counselor to find training for a new job. John attends AA meetings almost every day with his sponsor and meets with his probation officer, Mr. Harris weekly. While Maria attends Al-anon meetings, Robin meets with a children’s counselor, Amy.

John and Maria’s priest, Father McCullough is very supportive of the families in his parish and has often been there to help John and Maria with their family problems.

**The Fuller Family Scenario is used again in the Fish Bowl Activity in Module 6.*