



MODULE 6: FISH BOWL ACTIVITY

PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY:

The purpose of the Fish Bowl Activity is to conduct a mock Family Group Conference and to reinforce the principles that guide family group conference planning and conduct.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 8 Index cards - with the name of one of the 8 family or community members below
 - 8 Name tags with the following information:
 - John Fuller- Step Father- "I am an introvert."
 - Maria Fuller- Mother- "I'm important, I have the most input."
 - Tom Garner- Biological Father- "Ignore me."
 - Lydia Perez- Maternal Grandmother- "English is my second language, I am helpful."
 - Miguel Perez- Paternal Grandfather- " I am deaf and in poor health."
 - Tina-Robin's Aunt- "I'm of minimal importance, but I can be helpful."
 - Father McCullough-Parish Priest- "The Fuller and Perez families listens to me, I have an impact on them."
 - Maureen Corbett-Caseworker- "I am Important, I have the Authority."
 - Robin Fuller- "I am a child; I don't know what is going on."
 - 1 Copy of the "Fuller Family Scenario" used in the Yarn Activity for each of the 8 volunteers (8 copies).
 - 8 chairs placed in a circle or around a table.
 - Poster or Slide with the Family Group Conference Principles listed.
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ACTIVITY:

- 1) **Trainer asks for eight volunteers;** trainer invites volunteers to leave the room with the trainer to strategize the mock conference; **give each volunteer an index card** that identifies the family or community member that they represent.
- 2) **Hand out Fuller family scenario** that was used for the "String Activity;" **explain the purpose of the mock FGC** is to develop a day care schedule for Robin.

- 3) **State:** Those invited to the FGC are the adults who have been a support to John and Maria Fuller. Also invited by the Caseworker is Robin's biological father, Tom Garner.
- 4) **Attach labels** on the front of the volunteers above their chest; **inform the volunteers** "DO NOT READ YOUR OWN LABEL". **State:** Read the other volunteer's labels but keep this information to yourself; however respond to the other group members based on the information provided on that member's label.
- 5) **Inform volunteers:** The goal of the FGC is to develop a day care plan for Robin. For instance, since Lydia Perez "occasionally" watches Robin, would she be willing to commit to watching Robin on Tuesday nights? Since Tina likes to take Robin shopping and ice skating can she watch Robin on Saturday afternoon for two hours?
- 6) **Other participants are asked to observe the FGC;** and to note any observations they may have regarding the interactions among the group members.
- 7) **Volunteers then re-enter the training room** and sit in eight chairs that have been arranged in a circle; **tell the volunteer "caseworker"** to begin the mock FGC.
- 8) **FGC discussion proceeds** (5-7 minutes), while **other participants observe.**
- 9) **End the FGC; remind** volunteers to remain in their chairs and not to look at their own labels until directed to so.
- 10) **Ask each member of the FGC:**
 - How did it feel in that role?
 - How did you feel about the way people communicated with you?
- 11) **State:** You may now look at your label; **ask each member:**
 - Do you have anything to add, now that you see your label?
 - What was most challenging or frustrating for you during this exercise?
- 12) **Elicit from the group** how each family member was interacted with by the others and how this impacted the individual. **Ask all participants:**
 - What impressed you about the interaction among the members of the fishbowl?
 - As a result of this exercise, what ideas or thoughts will you take back with you and apply to your casework practice?