

ICE BREAKER MEETING

- IS** centered and focused on the child
- IS** a part of the child and family engagement process
- IS** a judgment free zone
- IS** a meeting between the child's parents and the caregiver
- IS** a facilitated conversation about the child
- IS** a meeting about the child's needs for today and when they return home
- IS NOT** a meeting to discuss the circumstances leading to the child's separation from their parent



Where we value our children's caregivers as members of our team who build loving and nurturing relationships for children and their families.



ICE BREAKERS

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES



WHY

It is all about the child, not the circumstance. Separating a child from their parent is difficult.

For the parent, it's a chance to meet the caregiver who will be taking care of their child.

For the caregiver, it is a chance to make a connection with the most important persons in the child's life.

For the child, it is to reassure them that they will remain connected to their parents and to make sure the caregiver has knowledge of their likes, dislikes, routines, schedule, as well as their favorite things to do and eat.

For CT DCF, it is a way to assure a child receives the best possible care and support to make their stay as brief as possible.

- Minimizes the child's trauma after separation
- Highlights the child's strengths, preferences, routines, likes, dislikes, fears, schedule, care, and specific needs
- Builds the partnership and connection between parents and the caregiver
- Encourages shared parenting /co-parenting
- Expands the networks of support for the child and their parents
- Promotes permanency

Questions to Consider

- Any educational needs
- Questions about the child's development
- Any health info or concerns that need follow up by the caregiver (i.e., medication, allergies, appointments etc.)
- Sports time/day, after school, or weekend routine events
- Homework routine
- Bedtime routine
- Family and cultural beliefs/traditions
- Any limitations on use of electronics (i.e., video games, cell phones, etc.)
- Any moments to share about the child's life
- Family/social contacts
- Child's fears
- Comfort items
- Food likes/dislikes
- Any behavior issues
- Composition of household members
- Any pets

When

The meeting should take place within 2 to 3 days after separation or when there is a change in care.

Who

The meeting is coordinated by the caregivers Foster Care Support Team.

How

The meeting happens virtually or in person.

Device Set Up

Several options are available. Below are links on how to setup your device for virtual meetings.

- Duo: <https://youtube/8syVP5aeJoA>
FaceTime: <https://youtube/iNXLZtg0FrI>
Meets: <https://youtube/vPnJVizqe5c>
Skype: <https://youtube/c5QT2G6-Efk>
Teams: <https://youtube/F4rWS93-Wbs>
What's App: <https://youtube/y3EdIjJeTXk>
Zoom: <https://youtube/sOJkfflN8O4>

A conference line can be available by request

