

Questions for bringing the Voice of the Child into Assessment:

Eliciting questions posed to children can help them to bring forward their thoughts and feelings, to be considered in the planning and assessment being done about them. The following is a list of questions (not exhaustive) to prompt discussions about the children's perspective.

- Tell me about who is in your family. Who do you live with? Who is in your extended family?
- What are some words that describe you/what sort of person are you? (If parent is present, can ask them to add some words to describe the child)
- Can you give me 3 words that describe your mom? Your dad? What's it like to be with them?
- Can you give me 3 words that describe your relationship with your mom? With your dad?
- How are you similar to your mom/dad? How are you different?
- Can you tell me about a time that you were upset and wanted help?
- Can you tell me about a time that your mom/dad helped to when you needed him/her? Was there a time that your mom/dad wasn't able to help you?
- Is there ever a time when you feel that your parents don't love you? When? Do they know that?
- Is there ever a time that you've felt unsafe or scared by/around your mom/dad? Tell me about that.
- On a scale of 0-10 how safe do you feel when you're with your mom/dad? (Assign feelings to 0 and 10 that match the child's stage of development)
- What happens when your mom/dad gets angry or gets upset with you? What do you call it? Can you describe what they look like?
- What does it look like when you get angry or upset? What does your mom/dad do when that happens?
- Why do you think you can't live with mom/dad right now? Do you ever feel responsible for that? Do you think your mom/dad knows that? (Allowing for an opportunity for you/the parent to give the child an age-appropriate explanation for why they're in care and what needs to happen for mom/dad to keep me safe)
- What are the things that your mom/dad does really well? What are the things that you wish they did differently?
- Is there anything that your current caregiver does that helps you, that you wish your mom/dad could do as well?
- Is there anything your worried about? Do you think your mom/dad knows your worried? How worried are you about this? (Scaling)
- Is there anything you'd like your mom/dad to know that you've had a hard time telling them?
- If you had three wishes, what would they be?