

## SHOW GRATITUDE

for them spending time with you. Showing acceptance and care for who they are and how they show up, helps them feel:

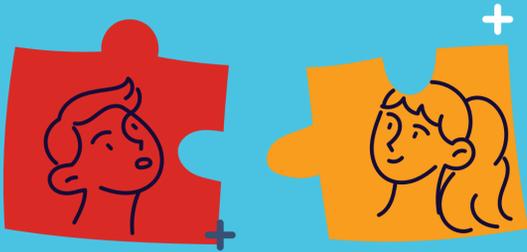
SEEN

HEARD

& UNDERSTOOD

## BUILDING TRUST

and relationships take time. Have patience and try to gain trust over multiple visits and interactions. Stay true to your word and do what you say you will do.



# TOP 10 CHILD AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

## + FOCUS ON THE PERSON'S STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS;



Be curious and ask questions. Find ways to support and encourage their interests by actively participating with them.

## MEET THE PERSON WHERE THEY ARE AT.

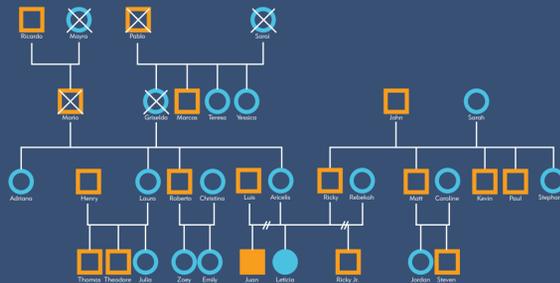
If they like technology, try the CFE Tools App or share one of the CFE videos. If they are a young person and prefer to write or draw, share the CFE Youth Journal with them.

## LISTEN AND VALIDATE THEIR:

- ✓ feelings
- ✓ thoughts
- ✓ ideas

...even if you don't agree with them.

Share a little about yourself, engagement is a two-way street.



Try a **CFE TOOL**, or two, to get to know the person and take some attention and pressure off – versus a more formal interview type conversation or meeting. Bring some art supplies or fidgets, all help break the ice.

## BE CURIOUS

Take the time to get to know the person's heritage; learn about the aspects of their family's way of life and traditions that are important to them.

AIM TO PARTNER

WITH FAMILIES

Recognize that all families have strengths, and that you are meeting them in a certain time of their life. Their story will continue after your involvement, this is but a chapter.

## IF ONE WAY OF ASKING A QUESTION DOESN'T WORK, TRY ASKING AGAIN IN A DIFFERENT WAY:

- + Tell me about who loves this child.
- + Who is in your support network?
- + Who is an emergency contact for your child at school? Could you tell me about that person?
- + If you are in trouble and needed someone to watch your child in an emergency, who would you call? Friend, family?

## COMMUNICATE KINDLY, CLEARLY AND CONSISTENTLY

and be accessible to the person you are trying to build engagement with. Be honest, in an age-appropriate way. If you don't know the answer to a question, follow up at a later time. Listen to understand, and listen more than you speak.

