

Ecomap Development Checklist

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Vanderbilt Center for Child Development

Did the interviewer

Content

Informal Supports

1. Ask who lives in the home?
2. Avoid asking who the child's father is or who the mother's husband is?
3. Ask ages of children living in the home?
4. Ask about the mother's parents?
5. Ask about the mother's siblings and other relevant relatives?
6. Ask about the co-parent's¹ parents?
7. Ask about the co-parent's siblings and other relevant relatives?
8. Ask about the close friends of the person being interviewed?
9. Ask about neighbors?

Formal Supports

10. Ask about early intervention or other educational or therapy services the child is receiving?
11. Ask about medical services?
12. Ask about financial assistance to the family?
13. Ask about other services the family is receiving?

Intermediate Supports

14. Ask about people at each of the parents' work?
15. Ask about recreational activities the family pursues?
16. Ask about religious affiliations (church, synagogue, mosque, etc.)?

Process

Who to Ask

17. Give the family a choice about who would develop the ecomap with the interviewer?
18. Allow more than one family member to participate?

How to Ask Questions

19. Reassure the family that they did not have to answer any question they did not want to answer?
20. Ask "support" questions for each person identified?

¹ "Co-parent" will be used for any other adult serving in a parenting role, such as a father.

21. Ask indirectly about the extent of support?
 - a. Ask some questions in terms of *how often the family talks to* the person identified?
 - b. Ask some questions in terms of *how well the family gets along with* the person identified?
 - c. Ask some questions in terms of *how often the family spends time* with the person identified?
 - d. Ask some questions in terms of *how well the family likes* the person identified (especially formal supports)?

How to Draw the Ecomap

22. Write the nuclear family's names in the middle of the paper and draw a box around it?
23. Draw boxes around each person identified?
24. Array informal supports (extended family, friends, neighbors) above the nuclear family?
25. Array formal supports (services, financial assistance) below the nuclear family?
26. Place intermediate supports (work, recreation, religion) on the sides of the nuclear family?

What to Do With the Ecomap

27. Tell the family that the purpose of the ecomap is to understand the people the family is already dealing with, so that recommendations make sense in that context?
28. Offer to give a copy of the ecomap to the family?
29. Make it clear where the ecomap and any copies would be kept?