

Individualize Discussions, Support, and Approaches Across All Ages

YCPRT Youth Prep Toolkit

Use interactive tools to explain the purpose of permanency discussions and meetings (such as YCPRT) and how their voice shapes the meeting.

- Center youth voice in all planning and conversations.
- Involvement is on a spectrum: Celebrate connection.
- Reinforce that permanency is about people, not placement.

Key Message

"We are not trying to replace anyone in your circle, we are just exploring and expanding it."

- Talk with youth, not at them. Use prompts, examples, and validation.
- Permanency is not a one-time conversation.
- Plans/goals may change over time and that is ok.
- Explore who can be invited to the table to support them.

Interviewing Principles

Follow these core motivational interviewing principles for permanency:

- **Partnership:** "We're figuring this out together."
- **Autonomy:** "You're in charge of your choices."
- **Empathy:** "Your feelings make sense."
- **Evocation:** "You already have important answers inside you."



Ages (11) 12-13: Preparing Youth for Conversations

Developmental Lens: Concrete thinkers, present-focused, strong sensitivity to loyalty, may fear "choosing" between adults.

Your Focus: Building understanding, trust, and readiness for participation.

Skills & Activities:

- **Feelings/Emoji Chart:** Help youth identify and express emotions related to family, safety, and connection.
- **Circles of Support:** Create a visual of people who are or have been involved in their lives.
- **Naturally Connected Questions:** Focus on basic open-ended prompts, like: "Who do you go to when you're upset?" or "Who's always been there for you?" to explore natural connections.



Facilitator Tips:

- Keep conversations short and visual.
- Use youth-friendly language and pace.
- Normalize nervousness; focus on strengths and safety.



Motivational Interviewing Spotlight:

- No correcting. No fixing. Just reflecting.
- You're reinforcing choice and autonomy, not commitments.
- Example approaches include Magic Wand and Three Wishes.