

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."



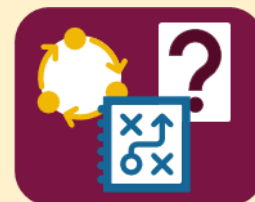
Ages 14-16: Deepening Awareness & Connection

Developmental Lens: Growing abstract thinking, strong identity development, testing autonomy and boundaries.

Your Focus: Helping youth identify, explore, and reconnect with supportive adults.

Skills & Activities:

- **Circles of Support (revisited):** Create a visual of people who are or have been involved in their lives. Expand/revise based on changes in their support system.
- **Genogram:** Reflect on family history, names, and relationships that may offer connection opportunities.
- **Naturally Connected Questions:** Focus on deepening exploration around past/current relationships.



Facilitator Tips:

- Encourage youth to lead conversations about their journey.
- Use reflective tools (journals, visuals) to spark discussion.
- Support participation in outreach ideas (letters, texts, calls).



Motivational Interviewing Spotlight:

- Shift from preparing to partnering. Use curiosity, not conclusions.