

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 17-18 (19): Social Networking & Future Planning

Developmental Lens: Seeking independence, future-oriented but sometimes reality unaware, sensitive to being "done to."

Your Focus: Building and sustaining connections beyond system involvement.

Skills & Activities:

- **Mobility Mapping:** Explore past caregivers, schools, and communities to identify supportive family, kin, or mentors.
- **Permanency Pact:** Create or update agreements outlining how supports will stay connected into adulthood. (Genograms can help identify supports.)
- **Naturally Connected Questions:** Focus on identifying dependable adult connections for now/future.



Facilitator Tips:



- Emphasize interdependence and connection.
- Use social networking activities to identify caring adults.
- Reinforce that permanency is lifelong and connected to real-life transitions.



Motivational Interviewing Spotlight:

- Emphasize choice and mutuality. Reflect confidence and concern together.
- Make it concrete and realistic (rides, holidays, advice, emergencies).