

STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
Health & Human
 SERVICES



Family Interaction Planning

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Getting Credit for Training

HHS Staff Watching in Groups:

1) Watch the recording as a group

An HHS group participant (the host) must enroll and launch the recording of CC 319 Family Interaction Planning from their account on the Service Training Website for the group to watch the full recording together.

2) Individually launch the recording to take the post-test and evaluation

To earn individual credit for attending the group viewing, each group participant from HHS must individually enroll and launch the recording of CC 319 Family Interaction Planning on their own account within the Service Training Website. Since you've already watched the recording as part of a group, speed-through the recording and advance directly to the post-test and evaluation by clicking the "next" button in the right-hand corner once the training initiates.

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Getting Credit for Training

Providers Watching in Groups:

Credit for attending for providers is the discretion and coordination of each provider agency.

HHS Staff Watching Individually:

- 1) Individually enroll and launch the recording of CC 319 Family Interaction Planning from your account on the Service Training Website.
- 2) Watch the recording in its entirety.
- 3) Complete the post-test and evaluation for this recording.

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Housekeeping

Part One
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Completed Courses
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My Task
Dropdown menu with 'Add', 'Edit', 'Delete' buttons

CC 319 Family Interaction Planning Enrollment Type

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Objectives

- Review the purpose and importance of family interactions
- Explore the new Family Interaction Planning Tool and Family Interaction Plan
- Identify how the tool will be used in the development and review of a Family Interaction Plan

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Discussion Activity:
Why are family interactions important in the child welfare process?

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Purpose of Family Interactions


<p>Maintain the parent-child attachment</p>	<p>Preserve the child's sense of belonging as part of a family and community</p>
<p>Facilitate permanency planning</p>	<p>Promote timely reunification</p>

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Importance of Family Interactions

The absence of regular and frequent interactions may have serious consequences for both the child and parents. Without interactions, the relationship can deteriorate, and both can become emotionally detached. When parent-child attachment suffers, reunification becomes more difficult.



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Quality family interactions are a key indicator of earlier and safer reunifications

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Family Interaction Goals

Reduce:

Child(ren)'s sense of abandonment and loss

Danger indicators present for the family

Maintain:

Relationships with siblings, parents and others

Meaningful contact that will help the child(ren) reach permanency


Provide the opportunity:

For families to:

- Enhance well-being
- Learn, practice and demonstrate new behaviors and patterns of interaction


To assess the placement's:

- Relationship with the child
- Needs- parent training, community resources and referral or concrete supports




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Planning Maintains Family Connections



- Includes parents, siblings and other relatives or kin who are significant to the child
- Honors each child's existing bonds and attachments



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Planning is Team-Driven, Family Focused and Child Specific

Involves the parents, child and caretaker in the development and ongoing assessment of the plan


Ensures the parents assist in daily decision-making and participate in everyday activities as much as possible

Involves the family's support system

Promotes the family's individual strengths

Respects the family's culture, faith and rituals

Is responsive to the child's age and developmental needs



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Connects a child's safety to the level of supervision

Arranges interactions in the most home-like setting that will maintain a child's safety and existing attachments

Considers the child's and parents' daily schedules

Ensures interaction frequency and settings are consistent and develop progressively towards a permanency goal

Increases contact and parents' role toward reunification

If reunification can't occur, planning helps to continue family relationships that preserve connections

Planning is Responsive to the Family's Unique and Changing Situation

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Roles and Responsibilities

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Role of the HHS Worker

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Role of the Service Provider

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Tips for Supporting Parents in Visits

A Guide from Rise

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New Family Interaction Plan

IOWA HHS Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
Family Interaction Plan
General Roles and Responsibilities

Carefully planned family interaction is a powerful family reunification intervention tool. Family interaction can help implement many essential family reunification goals, including:

- Maintaining the parent, child, and sibling relationships, and other relationships.
- Learning, practicing, and demonstrating new behaviors, parenting skills, and patterns of interaction.
- Enhancing well-being.
- Helping family members work through issues and connect to resources, and
- Documenting progress towards reunification goals.

Role of the HHS Worker

- Responsible for completing a written family interaction plan which is developed and revised with input from the family and their team.
- Abide by the Family Interaction Standards (Comen, 435).
- Work with the child and parent to help resolve setbacks in the family interaction plan, and
- Stress to all that safety is sole responsibility of the parent.

Role of the Parent

- Actively participate in the development of the Family Interaction Plan.
- Ensure safety and well-being of the children.
- Attend family interaction as scheduled and engage in discussion regarding progress and concerns observed in their interactions.
- Call in advance to cancel.
- Be receptive to guidance provided during interactions, and
- Follow family interaction plan.

Role of the Caregiver

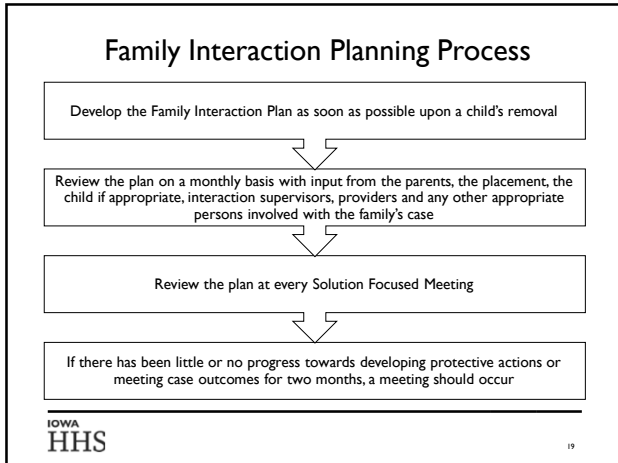
Caregivers can be foster parents, resource families, relatives, kinship, suitable others, etc.

- Participate in the family interaction planning process.
- Agree to abide by plan if facilitating family interactions.
- Communicate the daily activities and progress of the child.
- Collaborate with the family team and support the reunification process, and
- Recognize and understand separation and loss and how it affects child well-being.

Role of the Provider

- Abide by the Family Interaction Standards (Comen, 435).
- Support and communicate to the parent, caregiver, child, and HHS worker to ensure that family interaction occurs in a safe manner.

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Family Interaction Planning Tool

Slide 1

Purpose
This tool should be used to determine BEST recommendations for the Family Interaction Plan, which includes supervision level, interaction location, and interaction frequency and length.

Who is the tool used for?
This tool should be completed for each parent-child relationship. A separate tool may need to be completed for each parent depending on the family situation.

Who completes the tool?
The ICP worker (ICP) in collaboration with the family's team.

When is the tool completed?
Prior to completing the Family Interaction Plan, Family Interaction should begin as soon as possible after a child's removal from parental custody. The interaction plan should be reviewed monthly to determine progress, update goals, and determine if it is appropriate to consider change in supervision, location, and timing.

How is the plan documented?
In the Family Interaction Plan, Form 470-3148

Use this process to determine recommendations for the family interaction plan.

Comes: 449 (1/12)

1 INTERACTION SUPERVISION

Use the decision tree on reverse side to recommend the interaction supervision level for each identified parent-child relationship. Document the supervision level on the Family Interaction Plan. If supervision is required, document who is responsible for providing supervision during interactions. Consideration should be given based on the safety concerns and the developmental needs of the child.

Recommendation:

- Supervised by parent**
The interaction supervisor is required.
- Supervised by family member**
Supervisor should make on-site stop-ins during the interaction.
- Professionally Supervised**
Interaction does not need to be fully supervised (i.e., Supervisor is in the home, but does not necessarily need to be in the same room during the interaction).
- Supervised by Licensed Services**
Activities, modifications to, or other parent should be required to ensure supervision until it is safe and appropriate for the family to have unsupervised interactions.
- Unsupervised**
Interaction is deemed safe by the Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa Department of Health and Human Services) or other parent.
- Not a supervision level**
Document if interaction should occur.

2 INTERACTION LOCATION

Family interaction should occur in the least restrictive, most functional setting that allows for visual observation while appropriately meeting the child's needs for safety. Every opportunity for family interaction needs to be considered including foster visits, school activities, meetings, and other functions. Generally, the parent's residence, foster family home will provide the best environment for interactions. Checkboxes about interaction location should be made in partnership with the family. When safety is a concern, more secure settings should be chosen, and a safety plan developed for the interactions to continue.

Use the decision tree below to recommend interaction location.

Is the family's home physically safe and appropriate for visit?

Yes → Family Home

No → Is it physically safe for foster parent's home available and appropriate?

Yes → Foster Family Home

No → Is it physically safe, family-friendly community setting available and appropriate for interaction?

Yes → Family, Community, or Other Setting

No → Provider Office


No → ICHS Office

3 FREQUENCY & LENGTH OF INTERACTION

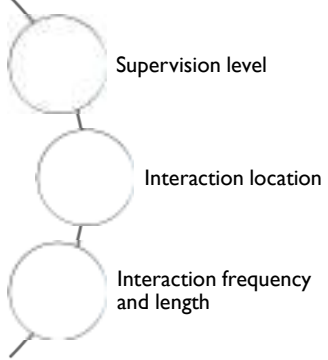
Interactions should be frequent and for as long as possible, unless limited by participant's under-supervised behaviors. Decisions should be made in partnership with the family and documented on the interaction plan. In determining how often and how long interactions should be, consider the following:

DEVELOPMENTAL AGE OF THE CHILDREN	
Minorhood (0-5 yrs)	Shorter, more frequent 3-4 times per week
Young childhood (6-12 yrs)	Longer, more frequent 1-2 times per week
Adolescent (13-17 yrs)	Longer, less frequent 1-2 times per week

Family Interaction Planning Tool


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Supervision level

Interaction location

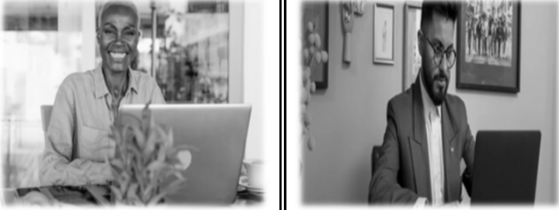
Interaction frequency and length

The tool helps to determine our recommendations for the Family Interaction Plan


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Who is Responsible for Completing the Tool?



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When Should the Tool Be Completed?

- Prior to completing the Family Interaction Plan
- Family interactions should begin as soon as possible after a child's removal from parental custody
- The interaction plan should be reviewed monthly to:
 - Determine progress and/or barriers
 - Update outcomes
 - Determine if it is appropriate to consider changes in supervision, location and setting

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Types of Interactions

- Unsupervised**
No interaction supervisor is required
- Semi-Supervised**
Interaction supervisor should make multiple drop-ins during interactions
- Relaxed Supervision**
Interactions do not need to be fully supervised
- Supervised by Natural Supports**
Relatives, kin/fictive kin or foster parents should be explored as interaction supervisors

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Types of Interactions

- Professionally Supervised**
Contracted provider, HHS worker or other child welfare professionals are recommended to supervise the interactions to address behavioral, developmental, relational or safety needs
- Therapeutic Supervised**
Interactions are supervised by a therapist or other child welfare professional specifically trained to address the needs of the parent-child relationship
- NO Interactions**
Discuss if interactions should occur

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Interaction Location

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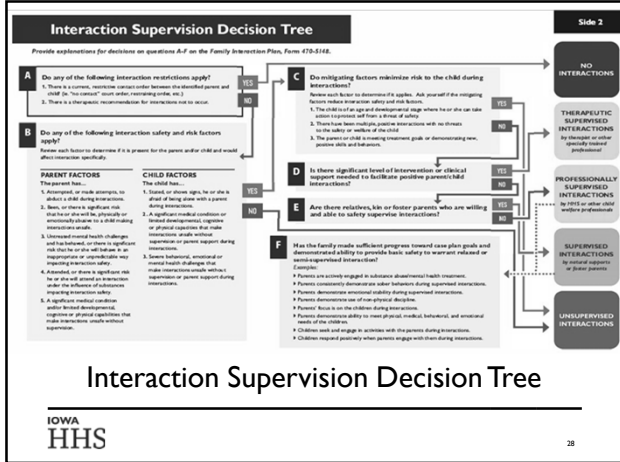
Frequency and Length

Interactions should be frequent and for as long as possible, unless harmful to participants and/or requested otherwise

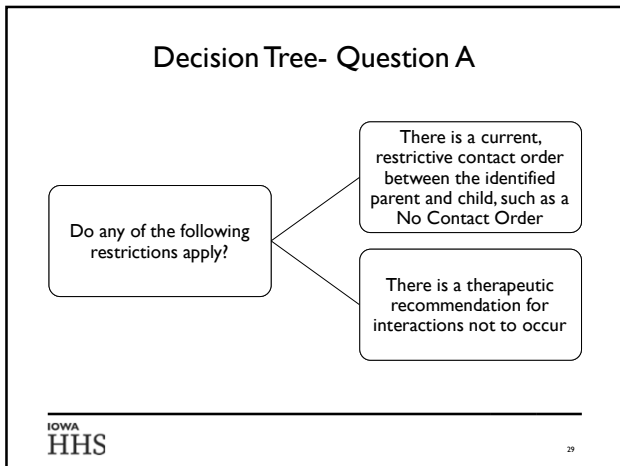
Developmental Age of the Children		
Infant and toddler 0-5	Shorter, more frequent	3-4 times per week
Younger, school-aged 6-12	Longer, more frequent	2-3 times per week
Adolescent 13-17	Longer, less frequent	1-2 times per week

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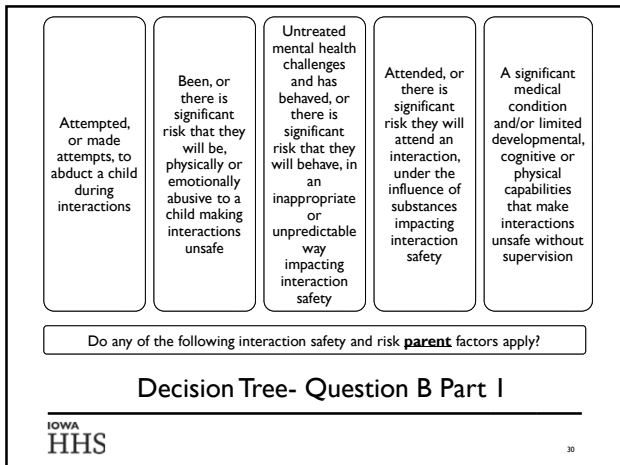
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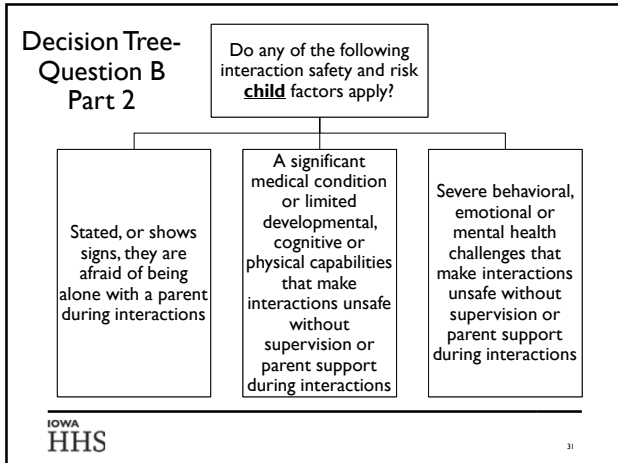
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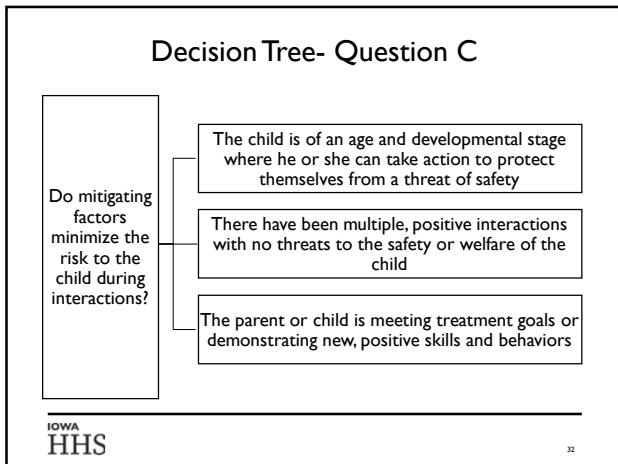
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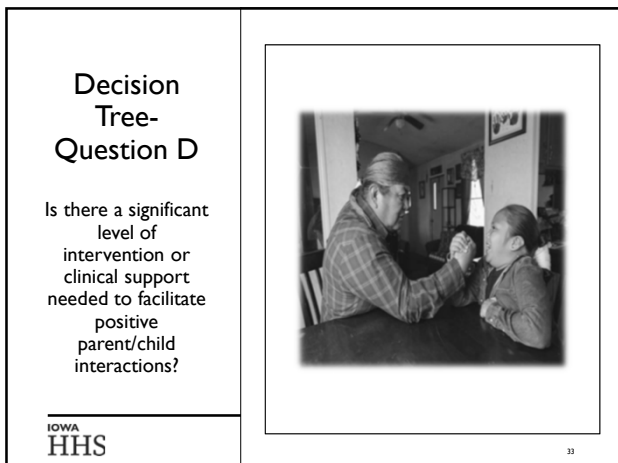
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Decision Tree- Question E

Are there relatives, kin or foster parents who are willing and able to safely supervise interactions?

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Has the family made sufficient progress toward case plan outcomes and demonstrated an ability to provide basic safety to warrant relaxed or semi-supervised interactions?

- Parents are actively engaged in substance abuse or mental health treatment
- Parents consistently demonstrate sober behaviors during interactions
- Parents demonstrate emotional stability during interactions
- Parents demonstrate the use of non-physical discipline
- Parents' focus is on the children during interactions
- Parents demonstrate an ability to meet the physical, medical, behavioral and emotional needs of the children
- Children seek and engage the parents during interactions
- Children respond positively when parents engage with them

Decision Tree- Question F


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Changes in Interaction Supervision

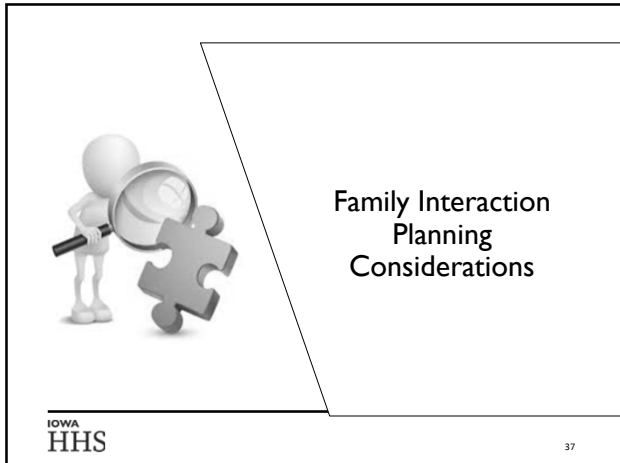
- Changes in interactions should be related to an assessment of safety and not linked to other measurements
- The family and all appropriate parties should be consulted prior to a change in supervision level



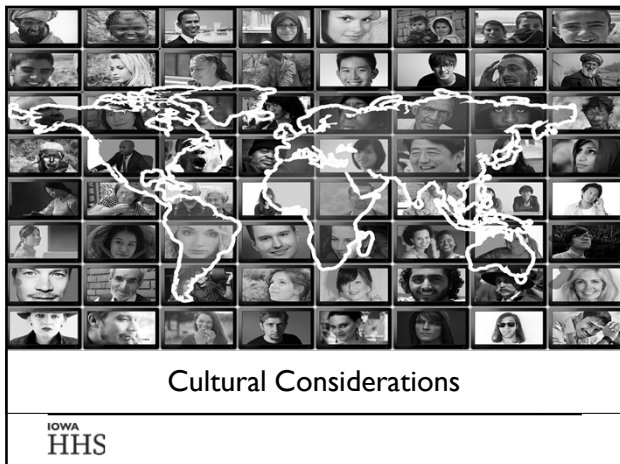
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Solution Focused Meetings Can Help with Family Interaction Planning


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Family interactions should **NOT** be used as a punishment or reward

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Family Interaction Planning Scenario Activity

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- Family interactions are an essential part of the reunification process
- The intent of the Family Interaction Plan is to develop an effective strategy for the family
- The Family Interaction Planning Tool should be utilized in every case when a child is removed from their parent to make decisions regarding the level of supervision, the location of the interaction and the frequency and length of the interaction
