My FAMILY is SPECIAL

TOOL 3I HOW ARE WE GOING?

This activity is based on a tool by Andrew Turnell from Signs of Safety. More information about his work is available at www.signsofsafety.net

LINKED TO:

• Sections 1.6, 1.7, 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5



WHY?

• This tool is designed to be used with families in an open way so that they have an understanding of your concerns and you understand theirs. Even when there are serious concerns and a notification has to be made to Child Protection authorities, for example, this tool can be a valuable way of helping families contribute to child safety and play an important part in solving the problems.



WHO WITH?

• Families (including children 8+ and younger where appropriate)



TIME?

• 15 mins+



YOU'LL NEED?

• A copy of the template and markers

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WHAT TO DO:

- Ask families to brainstorm what things are working well in their family you can do this as a free-for-all brainstorm, or take turns to say one thing, or use stickers, pictures or cards (like St Luke's strength cards) to help people identify what they think is working well. List those things in the middle column.
- Do the same process with 'what are we worried about'?
- Ask people to rate safety on a scale of 0 10 where 0 means the family can no longer care for the children and 10 means that everything that needs to happen for the children to be safe is happening.
- Finally brainstorm what needs to happen to address those things people are worried about. What safety score would they like to give themselves in a month's time? What needs to happen to get that score?

TO THINK ABOUT:

• You can use some of the other tools to inform this one. For example, Sentence Stems, All tied up and Family Strengths (Tools 3.1, 3.2, 3.4) will give families heaps of information to use in this planning tool. You can use this as an assessment and a planning tool.



HAZARD ZONES:

• Families should feel safe in completing this exercise as should the workers facilitating the discussion. Time and energy should be spent before the exercise considering how the family is faring and some discussion about how to manage if family's find the conversation difficult to unproductive.

