

What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is an opportunity to engage the entire family, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members, when a concern is raised in the community or at school about their child or children. It is a one-time meeting of all involved, including the child who has precipitated the conference, to discuss concerns and come up with a joint plan to rectify the situation. The FGC is premised on the assumption that families, when given the information they need from their child's school and community, are willing and able to make informed decisions about their child. The FGC empowers the family to take care of their own, to create solutions that otherwise may not be thought of, and to



Helping families help themselves

PARTNERSHIP FOR RESULTS

"Working for Safe Schools and Healthy Communities"

We are a comprehensive, community-wide collaboration dedicated to fostering the healthy development of children from infancy through secondary school.



School and Family as Partners

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School and Family as Partners

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING

Working for family resolutions to school and community concerns



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Why have a family conference?

Possible reasons for referral to FGC are, but not limited to:

- ?? Truancy
- ?? Poor academic performance
- ?? Excessive tardiness
- ?? Substance use or abuse
- ?? Disruptive behavior in school or what might be considered pre-PINS behaviors
- ?? To enlarge family supports for a single parent
- ?? To provide a regular schedule of respite
- ?? To provide assistance with supervision of a child.

A family is appropriate for a FGC if:

- ?? There are extended family members to participate
- ?? The family members live locally
- ?? They are willing to participate (FGC is a voluntary program)

WHAT HAPPENS AT A FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE?

Once everyone has arrived, usually at a family home, church or community center, and introductions are complete, each attending professional (“Information Provider”) delivers a brief statement to the family about their involvement with their child, followed by an opportunity for the family to ask questions. Strengths, concerns and services offered are noted. Once all questions have been answered, all non-family members leave and refreshments are served to the family. This is the family’s private time to review the information they have received and begin the task of developing a plan that addresses the concerns noted. After the plan has been recorded by a family member, the Coordinator and the referring source (a case worker, manager or school representative) return to the table to



Helping to partner families and schools to help secure academic success.

hear the family present their plan, and to ask any questions they may have about the plan, and to make sure all concerns have been addressed.

The plan is later copied and given to all participants of the Family Group Conference. The family

monitors its own plan, and the coordinator will check in post-FGC in 1, 3 and 6 months.

HOW CAN A FGC HELP?

A FGC could assist the child and parent(s) by helping them broaden the way they think about their family to include extended family members and caring friends and neighbors. Pooling the resources of the entire family may give the child more opportunity to have needs met within that family.



Working together to support our children’s health and well-being

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