

# Guiding Principles



- Recognize all families have strengths
- Maintain a focus on safety
- Families are the expert on themselves
- Treat families with dignity and respect
- Building partnerships in decision making keeps families invested
- Lasting change occurs by having shared responsibility with community partners
- Value team work
- Family is important to the identity of the child
- Bringing people together creates energy

# Participant Quotations



**“94% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they feel safe and comfortable at the conference”  
(CAS of Toronto FCC Pilot Project 2008)**

**“It is a great project. Positive and it would work really well when well prepared”  
(service provider)**

**“I have started to realize how much support I have. I have opened up a lot, instead of holding back.”  
(mother after attending FCC)**

## Contact Information

**Caseworker:**  
**Tel. 416-924-4640 (Extension: 1- )**

[www.TorontoCAS.ca/Services/For Clients](http://www.TorontoCAS.ca/Services/For Clients)

# Family Centered Conferencing (FCC)



**“Planning together to keep children safe and families strong.”**



*Because children depend on all of us*

# What is FCC?



A respectful process for families to come together with their support persons, community service providers and CAS worker. The objective is to reach mutual agreement on what needs to happen or what steps need to be taken to keep children safe and families strong.

The process involves an open discussion of family strengths and child protection concerns, while respecting cultural and religious differences. The goal is to develop solutions that meet the needs of the child and family.

It is a voluntary process that is of benefit to the family because it honours their own decision making abilities.

# Why FCC and Who Participates?



## Because it helps families...

- ☺ Keep children safe
- ☺ Understand protection concerns
- ☺ Understand the family's strengths and their needs
- ☺ Jointly develop a service plan to work together
- ☺ Understand how progress will be measured

## Who Can Participate?

- ☺ Family members
- ☺ Relatives, extended family, support persons including community members
- ☺ Care providers
- ☺ Service providers

# When are FCC's held?



**To develop the initial service plan and to review the ongoing service plan.**

**FCC's can be used in other situations such as:**

- ☺ Prior to a child coming into care (planned basis) or immediately after (unplanned basis)
- ☺ Prior to a child returning home
- ☺ Prior to court if lack of agreement
- ☺ To address difficult issues and critical decisions
- ☺ Prior to proceeding to alternative dispute resolution
- ☺ Prior to case closure

