## Profile of Parenting Study (POPS)

A Decision Support Tool for Potential Foster, Kinship or Adoptive Parents



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The Profile of Parenting Study is a tool developed in Tennessee to assist in identifying and developing potential foster, kinship or adoptive parents. The POPS build from the foundation of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), the Family Advocacy & Support Tool (FAST), and the Adult Needs and Strengths (ANSA) and the five protective factors that are at the heart of the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Strengthening Families Initiative. A large number of individuals collaborated in the development of the POPS including Michael Leach, Lawanda Christmon-Meneese, April Anderson and Rebecca Buckles of Vanderbilt Center of Excellence, Theresa Benson, Angela Kranhold, Heather Helton of University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Meghan Posey of Camelot Care Centers, Inc., as well as the 30 states, national and federal partners, and thousands of program practitioners that are part of the Strengthening Families National Network.

The Profile of Parenting Study is an open domain tool, designed to support the identification and development of foster parents. The POPS is developed from a communication perspective to facilitate the linkage between the assessment process and the design of development plans in determining next steps and additional training need or support for the people interested in becoming foster, kinship or adoptive parents. The POPS can be a guide to make sure all pertinent information is gathered and we plan around identified family needs and strengths. It can be used collaboratively with prospective parents as they should be part of the planning process. The POPS can be used as either a prospective assessment tool for decision support during the process of planning services, or as a retrospective assessment tool based on the review of existing information for use in the design of service systems.

Hopefully this tool will serve as a valuable contribution to those states that are moving toward taking a protective factors approach in their child welfare practice. For more information and about the national Strengthening Families Initiative and more tools for use with child welfare practice see also the Strengthening Families website at <a href="http://strengtheningfamilies.net">http://strengtheningfamilies.net</a>.

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#### FOUR KEY COMPONEMTS OF A COMMUNIMETRIC TOOL

- 1. Items are selected based on relevance to planning. Items are selected because they might lead you down different pathways of service planning.
- 2. The POPS is an item-level tool. Each item should be relevant to what you might do next. Action levels for all items. Levels of items (0, 1, 2, 3) translate immediately into action levels.
- 3. The POPS is descriptive. It is about the 'what' not about the 'why'. This is useful in working with families. The initial focus of the assessment is to describe where needs and strengths exist not to determine why they exist. Stigma and judgment come from the "why," so this strategy helps initial rapport with families. The "why" may be obtained in the interview.
- 4. The ratings are about the applicant, not about the service. Rate needs when masked by interventions.

#### **Anchor Definition Meaning**

#### **NEEDS-**

- No need no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.
- 1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.
- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting.

#### STRENGTHS-

- O Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well-developed area. This individual could teach others.
- 1 Useful Strength— this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential foster parent.
- 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity but not yet able to support effective parenting
- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

#### Utilization

- The tool can be used collaboratively with prospective parents.
- Any item in the strength section rated as a "0" must show documentation in the appropriate narrative section showing why this is a centerpiece strength.
- Any item rated as a '2' or '3' must be discussed in the appropriate narrative section on why this is a actionable need or a strength that needs to be built.

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- If scored a "2" or "3" elaborate on areas of weakness and how to improve.
- Any item rated as a '2' or '3' must be discussed with supervisor to address approval status or future training/supervision options. These training/supervision options must be discussed in the home study.
- Refer to Documentation of the Foster Family Home Study manual for example questions to help gather information needed to complete the POPS.
- Foster parents will be reassessed during reassessment period.
- Foster parents can be reassessed at *anytime* there are concerns about their ability to parent. (E.g. SIU, several disruptions, violations of policy, etc.)

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# Profile of Parenting Study (POPS) Tool

Foster Home ID:	Date:		
Applicant/Foster Paren	t #1 Name		
Applicant/Foster Paren	t #2 Name		
to determine any ident	ified areas of weakness th	n Leader when applicable w lat will need follow up, and d ditional assistance or trainin	determine if this
Assessor:			
Assessor Supervisor:	Print Name	Signature	
	Print Name	Signature	
DCS Team Leader: Print Name		Signature	
Interview With	Location	Date	
Interview With	Location	Date	
Interview With	Location	Date	
Interview With	Location	Date	
Intorviow With	Location	Date	

#### I. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

KEY:

- O Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well-developed area. This individual could teach others
- 1 Useful Strength— this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential foster parent.
- 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity, but not yet able to support effective parenting
- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applicant	Applicant/Foster Parent #1				Applicant/Foster Parent #2
	0	1	2	3	0 1 2 3
1. Knowledge of child's needs	0	0	0	0	0000
2. Nutrition management	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
3. Discipline	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
4. Supervision	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
5. Learning environment	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
6. Effective parenting approaches	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
7. Boundaries	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
8. Primary care	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
9. Value of child's play	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
10. Expectations	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
11. Birth sibling relationship	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
12. Child & birth family background	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
13. Working with birth parents	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

#### II. Ability to Nurture Social & Emotional Competence of Children

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

KEY:

- Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well-developed area. This individual could teach others
- 1 Useful Strength—this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential foster parent.
- 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity, but not yet able to support effective parenting
- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applicant/l	Fost	er P	are	nt #1	Applicant/Foster Parent #2	
	0	1	2	3 NA	0 1 2 3 NA	
14. Empathy	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
15. Ability to listen	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
16. Impact of own behavior	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
17. Communication	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
18. Managing abuse/neglect behavior	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
19. Managing sexual abuse behavior	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
20. Managing unruliness/delinquency	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
21. Managing separation & loss	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
22. Adopted child status	0	0	0	00	$\circ \circ \circ \circ \circ$	
23. Post adoption contact	0	0	0	00	$\circ \circ \circ \circ \circ$	

#### **Identification and Use of Concrete Supports** III.

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

KEY:

- Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well-developed area. This individual could teach others 1 Useful Strength—this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in
- parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential foster parent.
- 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity, but not yet able to support effective parenting
- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applica	Applicant/Foster Parent #1			
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3		
24. Involvement with care	0000	0000		
25. Organization	0000	0000		
26. Knowledge of service options	0000	0000		
27. Knowledge of rights/responsibilitie	s 0 0 0 0	0000		

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#### **IV.** Positive Family Community and Social Connections

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well-developed area. This individual could teach others

- 1 Useful Strength—this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential foster parent.
- 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity but not yet able to support effective parenting
- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applican	t/Foster Parent #1	Applicant/Foster Parent #2		
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3		
28. Caregiver collaboration	0000	0000		
29. Partner relationships	0000	0000		
30. Relationships with extended family	0000	0000		
31. Community involvement	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000		
32. Natural supports	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000		
33. Family versatility	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000		

#### V. Parental Resilience

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well-developed area. This individual could teach others

- 1 Useful Strength—this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential foster parent.
- 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity, but not yet able to support effective parenting
- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

	Applicant/Foster Parent #1	Applicant/Foster Parent #2		
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3		
34. Recreation	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$		
35. Optimism	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$		
36. Problem solving	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$		
37. Accepting of diversity	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$		
38. Resilience	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000		

#### VI. Parental Health

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

- 1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.
- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

Applica	ant/Foster Parent #1	Applicant/ Foster Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
39. Physical health	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000
40. Mental health	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000
41. Substance use	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000
42. Developmental	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
43. Post traumatic reactions	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
44. Hygiene and self-care	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
45. Childhood hx of deprivation/tra	auma O O O O	0000
46. Childhood hx of victimization	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

#### **VII.** Family Economics

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.

- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

	Applicant/Foster Parent #1	Applicant/Foster Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
47. Financial resources	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
48. Employment	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
49. Transportation	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
50. Residential stability	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
51. Resources for children	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

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#### VIII. Home Safety Factors

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

- 1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.
- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

Applicant/Foster Parent #1				Applicant/Foster Parent #2	
	0	1	2	3	0 1 2 3
52. Child Safety	0	0	0	0	0000
53. Securing meds/weapons/hazards	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
54. Neighborhood safety resources	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
55. Condition of the home	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
56. Domestic Violence in home	0	0	0	0	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

### IX. <u>Children or Other Adults Residing in (or frequently visiting) the</u> Home

#### **57**. DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS -

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

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- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

			0 1 2 3
57. Name	Relationship	_ High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
Name	Relationship	_ High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	0000
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	0000
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	0000
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	0000
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	0000
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	0000
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	0000
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

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