

Safety First – Consider the possibility that it may not be safe for someone to talk to you. Be mindful of how the child or caregiver responds to your questions. If responses seem out of character, strained or emotional; you should consider contacting the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH). Please be prepared to describe how the dynamics of the call concerned you or seemed inconsistent with the answers that were given.

Questions for Parents/Caregivers

1. Is now a good time to talk? If not, is there a better time for me to call?

Potential follow-up questions

- Is everyone okay? Is there someone I should call for you?
- Are you safe? Do you need help right now?

2. Is everyone able to get what they need to get by? (Food, clothing, housing, medical care) Have there been any problems?

Potential follow-up questions

- Are you able to access what you need to care for your family? What would help?
- Who can help you? Do you have supportive family, friends, or neighbors to help you and your children?

3. How is everyone getting along with each other? Is anyone having a hard time?

Potential follow-up questions

- How is everyone passing the time? Do you have activities you do together? Do you need ideas?
- Are you worried about anyone? Why?

4. What's it like parenting right now? How is it different? What's going well? What are some of the challenges?

Potential follow-up questions

- Have you noticed changes in your child's behavior? Are you concerned?
- Who were your children connected to outside the home? How are they staying in touch to their friends?

5. How are you holding up?

Potential follow-up questions

- How is everyone coping with stress? Are you finding it difficult to bounce back or manage?
- Is anyone having a hard time? What seems to be bothering the most? What makes it better/worse?

Questions for Children

1. Tell me about how things are going at home. How are things going for you?

Potential follow-up questions

- Are you feeling okay?
- Are you worried about anything?

2. Who is taking care of you? What are they doing?

Potential follow-up questions

- Who makes sure you have everything you need? What do they do?
- Where do you sleep at night? Does anyone else sleep with you? Do you sleep well?
- Who wakes you up in the morning?
- Who takes care of you when you get hurt? What do they do?
- Who goes out and gets food for you? What do you like to eat? Who makes your meals? Who do you eat with?

3. How is everyone getting along with each other? Is anyone having a hard time?

Potential follow-up questions

- Who lives or stays in your home (including pets)? Who visits?
- Are you worried about anyone? Why?
- How can you tell when someone in your home is having a hard time? What do they do? What makes them feel better?

4. Tell me about what you do all day.

Potential follow-up questions

- What things do you like to do at home? What don't you like to do?
- Do you have responsibilities at home? What are they?
- What is everyone doing all day? Do you have activities you do together?

5. What do you like most about staying at home? What do you like least? Why?

Potential follow-up questions

- What are the rules in your house? What happens when someone breaks a rule? (Sibling, pet, mom, dad?)
- What are some of the best things about being at home?
- What are you doing for fun?
- What do you miss the most about school? Why?