



Discussing the benefits of working with the practitioner



These scripts provide the practitioner with ways of being able to engage family members in work – for example, by using the notion that many parents find it helpful. Referring to other families in similar situations is a helpful way of engaging the family, and for them not to feel isolated and alone as if they are different from everyone else. It also gives a message that the practitioner is aware of similar situations, and of providing helpful ways of intervening.

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- Many parents feel that it is helpful to share; they feel less frustrated and alone.
- Many parents find it helpful to find better ways of coping with difficult family experiences. New ideas, support and encouragement help people not to feel so alone.
- Many parents think it helpful to learn positive and healthy ways to solve problems, which could make a real difference to them as parents, to their child and to other family members.
- Many families tell us that they find it very helpful to find new ways of solving problems and addressing conflicts.
- We know it is difficult, but parents tell us that the fact that there is somebody supporting them and helping discussions with a child protection team and [if appropriate] the courts is helpful, as is liaison with other practitioners.
- Many parents feel supported when there is a team around the child that is supporting them to help their children.
- Again, although we appreciate that it can be difficult, many families tell us that being reasonably open about matters that concern their children, while respecting confidentiality when appropriate, is also helpful.

We are going to spend the next session discussing what sort of specific goals we should all be trying to aim for.