

# **Guiding Principles of Family Search and Engagement**

*Family Search and Engagement is guided by Six-Principles which highlight key aspects that are essential in effective Family Search Engagement Practice.*

- I. **Early Intervention** - Information about potential connections needs to be collected and documented early-on and should be an on-going part of case planning and decision-making.
- II. **Youth-Centered** - Youth should have significant voice in decision-making about permanency planning, and be kept informed frequently throughout the process.
- III. **Family-Based** - Family members have unique perspectives and important information. Even if certain family members may not be a suitable placement, they might provide great connections.
- IV. **Team Decision Making** - The permanency team consists of the youth, family, professionals, and others who are committed to the shared responsibility of helping the youth establish permanency connections.
- V. **Network of Connections** - FSE recognizes that youth need and want a network of supports, who each uniquely contribute to meeting the youth's needs.
- VI. **Sense of Urgency** - FSE focuses on permanency now for youth – it is the priority goal.

Source: Summit County Children Services Family Search and Engagement Procedure & OCWTP

## Three Skills-Five Strategies

Three Skills	Five Strategies
<p><i>The application of effective Family Search and Engagement practice emphasizes <u>Three-Skills</u>; each of which have been identified as being essential in successful casework practice.</i></p>	<p><i>The <u>Three-Skills</u> of planning, engaging and documenting are each intertwined into the <u>Five-Strategies</u> of Family Search and Engagement, which aim to achieve permanency for children/youth through careful considerations and detailed actions steps. Please note, these <u>Five-Strategies</u> can take place throughout the life of a case.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Planning</u></b> Careful formulation of steps aimed at achieving permanency for the child/youth.</p>	<p><b><u>Searching</u></b> Identification of a pool of individuals who may be able to serve as potential permanency connections for the child/youth.</p>
<p><b><u>Engaging</u></b> Active engagement of the child/youth, family members and others identified as prospective permanency connections in the child/youth’s permanency plan. This skill-set also focuses on building collaborative</p>	<p><b><u>Contacting</u></b> Contact is made with the pool of individuals identified in the “searching” phase and they are engaged in discussion regarding their level of interest and commitment to being included in the child/youth’s permanency plan.</p>
<p><b><u>Documenting</u></b> Maintenance of ongoing records that detail activities completed and progress being made toward the achievement of goals outlined in the child/youth’s permanency plan.</p>	<p><b><u>Teaming</u></b> The development of a diverse team that consists of child welfare professionals, the child/youth and other identified supports who share a mutual goal of achieving permanency for the identified youth.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Developing Permanency</u></b></p> <p>The development of a network of supports that will serve as permanent connections for the youth/child.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustaining Permanency</u></b></p> <p>The maintenance of established permanency connections through ensuring that identified needs and supports are in place.</p>

Source: OCWTP