

Genograms explained on a page



Description

A genogram is to be completed and developed with the family. It is more than a family tree because they tell us who the family members are and how they are connected emotionally and physically to the child.



Structure/Process

1. Draw the genogram by hand with the family, including the children.
2. Start with a basic family tree diagram and talk about each person as they are added. The initial aim is to identify all the important people involved with the family. They may not be related and could be a supportive friend/neighbour.
3. Asking about where connected people live, about their experiences and how they are involved helps you to get a good understanding of the family culture and how the child is supported.
4. The genogram should always be attached to the assessment as a document.
5. Add the date the genogram was done to know how old the information is.



Tips

- Just use first names and ages. Don't include information like surnames, full addresses, DOB.
- Don't be worried about the symbols. It is usual that a square shape represents a male and a circle a female, however be creative. The important thing is to be consistent. A dotted line between the person and child may mean they have limited contact. Use a key to show what the symbols mean so that others can then interpret the code you have chosen.
- Genograms are open tools that should be added to over time as you get to know the family and identify more people who can provide support.



Examples

