

Three Houses (Engage child in danger statement and safety assessment)

(Below are a variety of SFQ that can be asked during the Three Houses engagement with children)

House of Worries/Not so Good Things/Bad Stuff

Young Children:

1. Lots of kids I talk to often have worries. Worries are often things that make us feel sad, mad or maybe a bit bad.
 - a. Are there any worries that you might have? Can we put those in your house of worries?
2. Is there anything that makes you feel sad at home or school?
3. Is there anything that makes you feel mad at home or school that you'd like to put in your house of worries?
4. Is there anything or someone who makes you feel bad or worried at home or at school?
5. Is there anything else you think needs to be in this house?

Teens (trouble youth)

1. What are your top 3 worries?
2. What's something you don't feel so good about at home/school?
3. What thoughts and feeling are you aware of that makes you get in trouble/do unsafe things?

House of Good Things/OK Things

Young Children:

1. What do you like about school?
2. What are your favorite things to do at home? Who do you most like doing those things with?
3. What are your favorite things to do with your mom/dad?
4. What would others say you are good at?
5. What things make you feel happy or feel good?
6. Is there anything else you'd like to put in this house?

Teens

1. Who is someone who matters to you? What do you think they'd say you are good at?
2. What does a good day look like to you?
3. What do you feel best about in your world right now?
4. Who in your world helps keep you safe?
5. What sort of things do you think you are good at?
6. What sort of thoughts/feeling do you have that helps you feel ok and keep you safe?

House of Hopes and Dreams/Wishes

Young Children:

1. If all the worries at home are gone, what would you like to have happening?
2. What would be different if all the worries were gone?
3. What else would you have in your house of Hopes and Dreams that would help the worries listed in your house of worries?
4. Is there anything else you'd like to put in this house?

Teens (trouble youth)

1. When you were a kid what did you want to be when you were an adult?
2. What would the person who most matters to you say you would be doing in the future that would make them proud?

Pathway

1. What's one thing you can start today that'll help keep you safe/feeling ok?
2. Who can help you with that?
3. What other people do you need?

Three Houses Instructions (Solution Focus Questions)

(This handout is meant as a starting point, there are many more SFQ that can be used to engage children - be curious and give it a try.)

Introducing the Three Houses to children:

"Hi my name is xxx and part of my job is to help kids and their families with worries that they might be having. I talk to lots of kids and one thing that helps me do that is to use something called the Three Houses, can I show you what that is?" (Show outlines or pictures of the tool.)

Get out paper and draw one of the houses, then say:

"I'm not a very good drawer; I bet you can do a better job than me, could you draw the next two houses for me?"
(If they can't draw or don't want to tell them it's ok and then draw for them).

How to explain the Houses:

1. In the first house we'll write or draw things you're worried about, I call this the House of Worries. What do you want to call your house?
2. In the second house we'll put in the things you like or enjoy in your life, I call this the House of Good Things. What would you like to name your house?
3. Finally, the third house we'll write or draw how you would like things to be in your life if all your worries were gone or taken care of. I call this the House of Hopes and Dreams/Wishes. What would you like to name this house?

Would you be ok doing the three houses with me?

If child agrees:

"Now sometimes I do the Three Houses with children and they tell me about things that I might feel really worried about and I have to talk with other people about, or their mom and dad, but I will tell you if I have to do that. Are you still ok doing the Three Houses with me?" If the child agrees invite them to name their Three Houses anything they like.

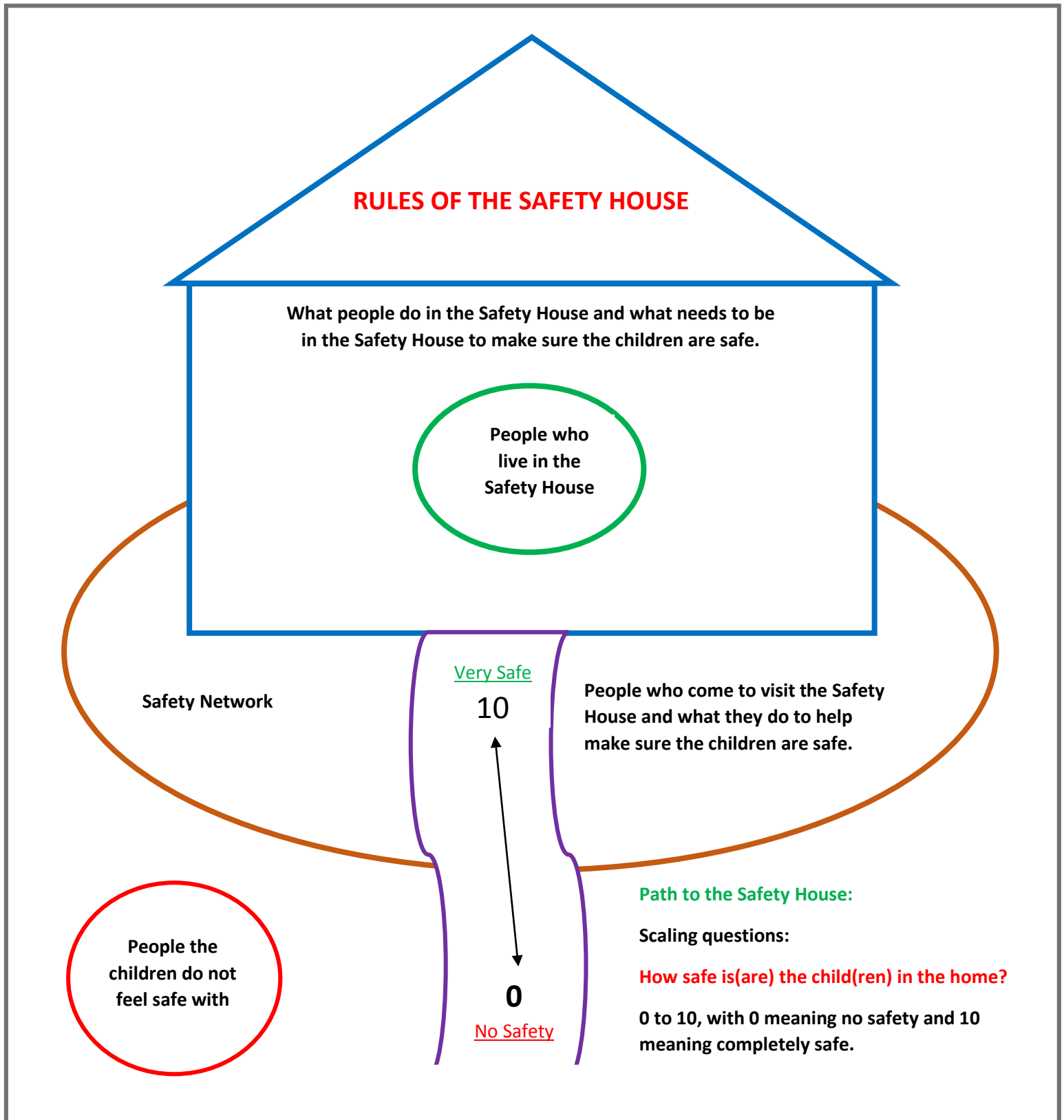
The Conversation:

- * Ask the child here they would like to start, which house? Start with the good things if the child is anxious or nervous but let them guide you. Many children will start with the worries if they are feeling burdened by problems or issues.
- * Ask if they would like to write and draw or if they would like you to help with writing?
- * Always verify with the child if what you are writing is correct.
- * Be prepared to move back and forth between houses.
- * Ask clarifying questions if the child draws or says something that doesn't make sense.
- * Ask about people the children left out of the three houses, who you know are involved.

THE SAFETY HOUSE TOOL

Created by Sonja Parker, Australia

Engage the Child in Safety Planning



This tool is meant as a starting point – there are many solution focused questions you can choose from to engage children.

Rules of the Safety House

"Before returning home a safety plan will be talked about with your mom/dad. One of the things in the safety plan are house rules, these rules will help keep you safe. What house rules do you think are needed to help you always feel safe and protect you from being _____ (hurt, molested, left alone, etc.) again?"

If your ____ (sister/brother) were here, what would they say the rules of the house should be?

"What else?"

What do people do in the Safety House and what needs to be in the Safety House to make sure the children are safe?

Child draws her/himself in the inner circle leaving room for others.

What are the important things that (mom/dad) would do in your safety house to make sure that you are safe?

Imagine that you are home with ____ (mom/dad...) and you feel very safe and happy, what kind of things would (mom/dad/brother/sister...) be doing?

Who else would live in your Safety House with you?

Are there any important objects or things that need to be in your safety house to make sure that you are always safe?

Who would/will come to visit you in your safety house to help make sure that you are safe?

NO WORRIES

Completely safe to live with mom/dad

Where would you place yourself on the path today?

What do adults need to do so you can be one step closer to the house?

Everyone is worried and (known danger is happening, hitting, DV, molest, etc.)

VERY WORRIED

NO WORRIES

Feeling safe and not worried that mom/dad will ____ (abusive behavior) me again

Where would you place yourself on the path today?

What do adults need to do so you can be one step closer to the house?

If you go home or start overnight visits, mom/dad will start ____ (using drugs, hitting you, etc.) and you won't feel safe

VERY WORRIED

When ____ (the identified safety people) comes to visit you in your safety house, what are the important things they need to do to help you be safe?

When you go home to live with ____, is there anyone who might live with you or visit that you would not feel completely safe with?

