

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair and a young girl with curly hair, both smiling and hugging each other outdoors. The woman is wearing a light blue striped shirt, and the girl is wearing a white t-shirt. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

# ENGAGING FAMILIES IN STRENGTH- BASED PRACTICE

**UC DAVIS  
EXTENSION**  
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

RESOURCE CENTER FOR  
FAMILY-FOCUSED PRACTICE

# JARRED VERMILLION, VERMILLION LIFE CIRCLE CONSULTING

# Journeying Through the World of Engagement

## Agenda:

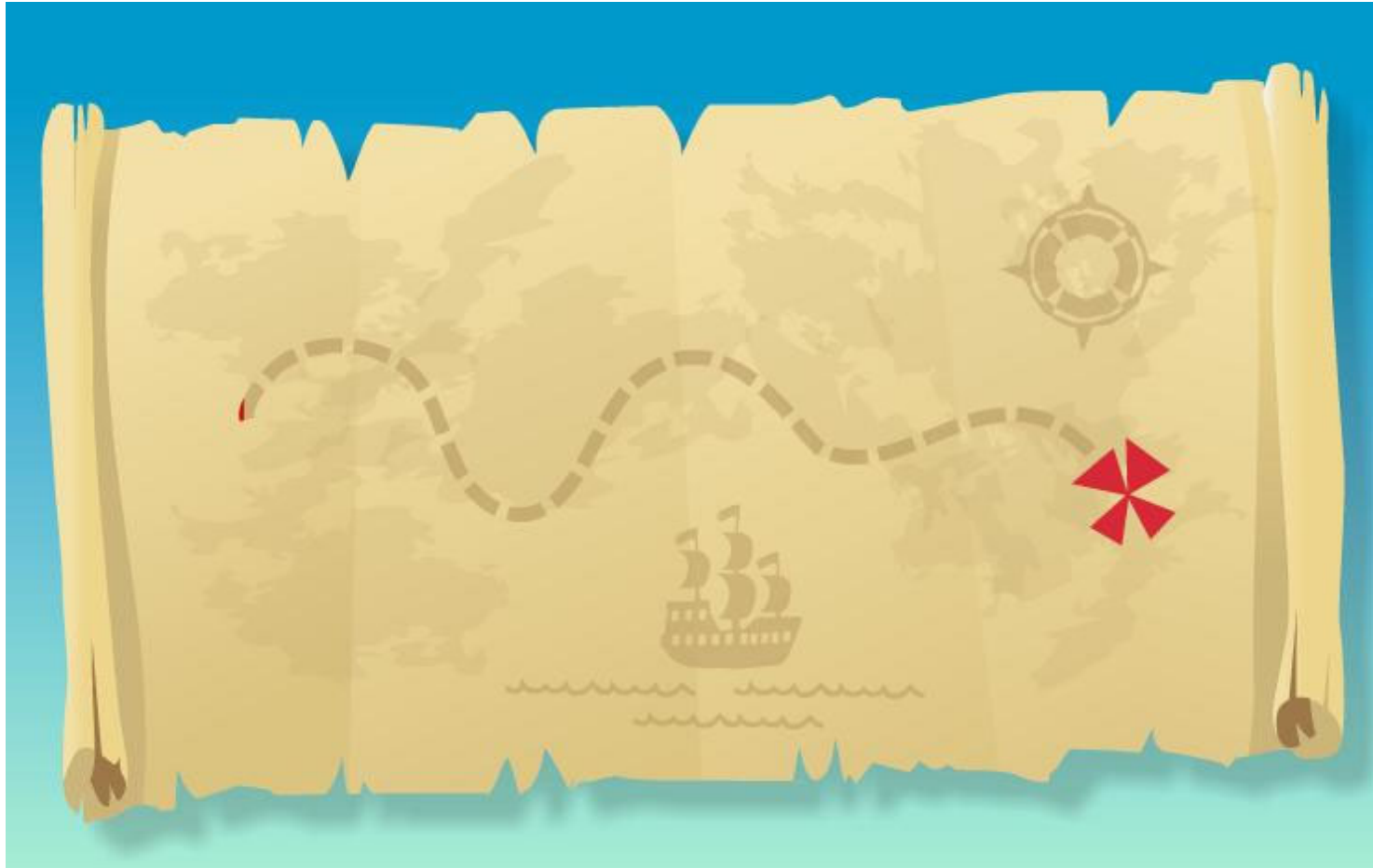
- Discuss Importance of Family Engagement
- Intro to Engagement Toolbox
- Practice Skills for Engagement
  - M.I. Practice
  - In Vivo Practice And Coaching

## Objectives:

1. Discuss Successful Engagement Strategies
2. Reflect and Plan for Optimal Family Engagement
3. Identify and Practice Engagements Strategies

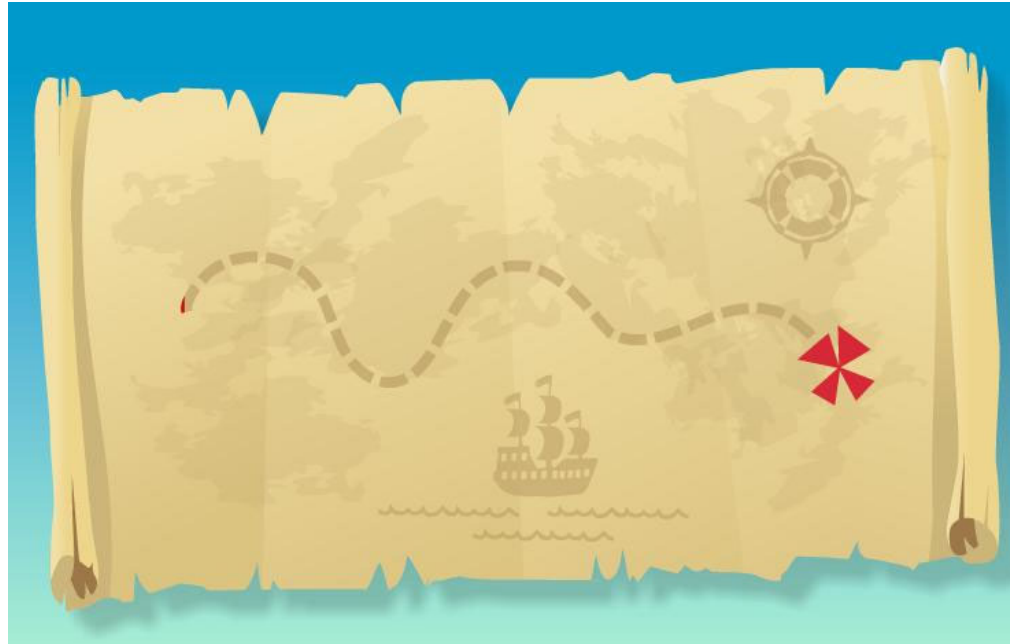


# Your Needs on this Journey





# The Family's Journey: Family Feelings



# GROUP ACTIVITY

## HOW DO YOU ENGAGE YOUR YOUTH AND FAMILIES?



1. Work as a team
2. On flip chart paper note some of your successful engagement approaches, strategies and tools
3. Be prepared to share with larger group

# Introduction to the Engagement Toolbox

Creating Journey Comfort  
Strengths Tools  
Compassion Dust  
Compass of Responsibility  
Finding Your Way Back



# CREATING JOURNEY COMFORT

## 1) The Actual Room





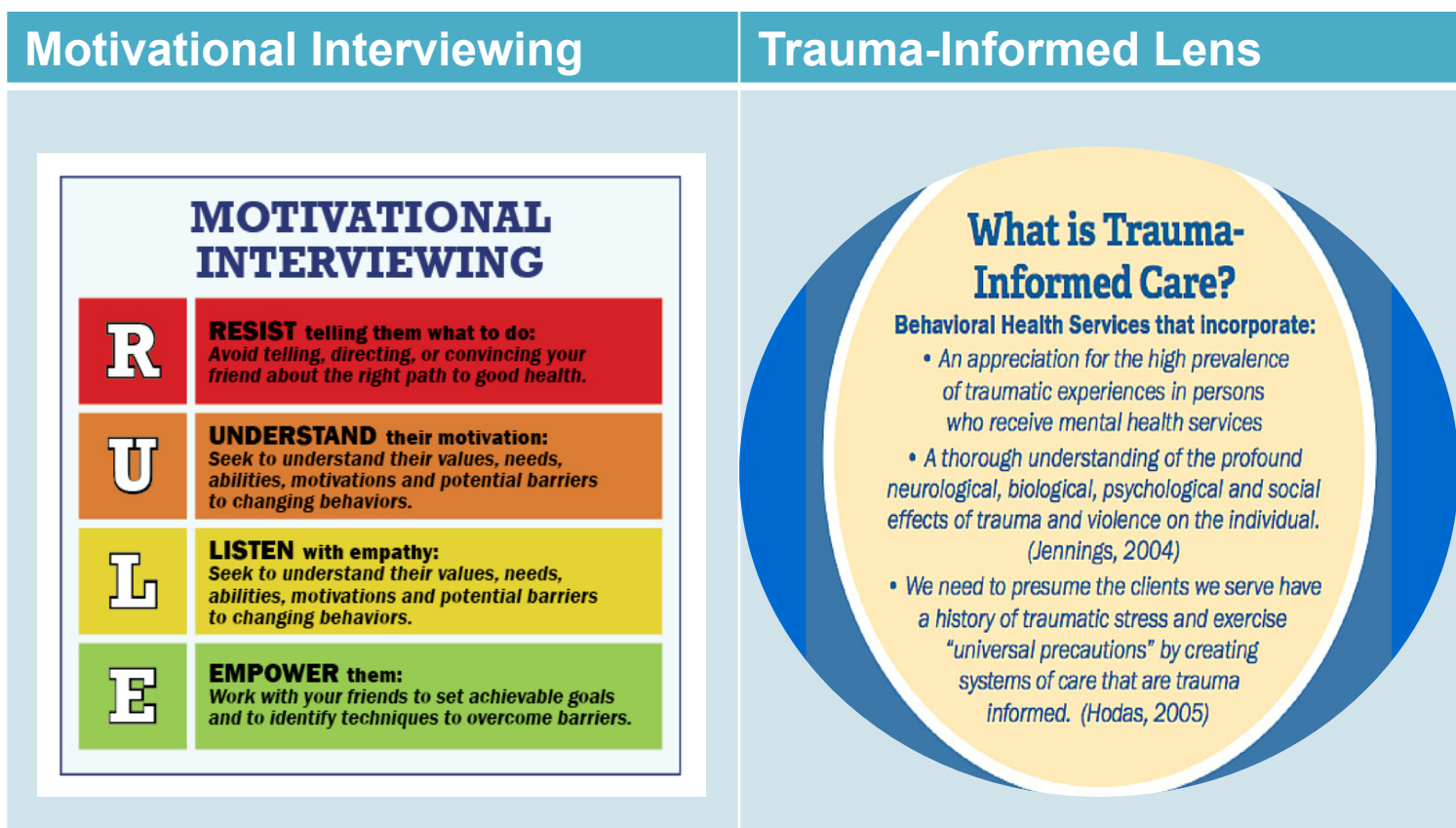


## **GROUP ACTIVITY**

**WORK AS A TEAM - YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES  
TO DESCRIBE THE MOST ENGAGING  
ENVIRONMENT...MAKE A LIST.....**GO****

# CREATING THE SAFE JOURNEY ENVIRONMENT

## 2) Opening Awareness and Creating Safety



# GROUP ACTIVITY

## MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES – PRACTICE TO HELP YOU ALONG THE WAY



Open-Ended Questions  
Affirmations  
Reflections  
Summaries

1. Think of a goal you currently have that you may have challenges with; or something you wish you could get yourself to do
2. Choose a Partner; Partner 1 define your goal; Partner 2 listen
3. Partner 2 practice using the MI techniques with Partner 1
4. Switch places
5. Discuss

# STRENGTHS TOOLS

Strengths Bucket

Newspaper

Strengths, Needs, Culture Discovery

Resource Tree





# COMPASSION DUST

Creating space in your heart for someone else

Giving Grace

Understanding Needs



# GROUP ACTIVITY

## PRACTICE COMPASSION

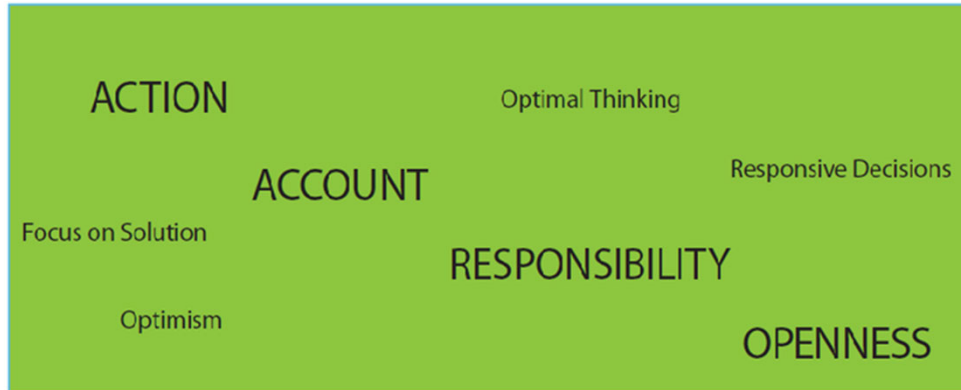
Every person has a “pirate” in their life

1. Choose one of the “pirates” in your mind
2. Use the worksheet to describe what you could do to elicit compassion for this person
3. What do you call upon inside you to elicit compassion?

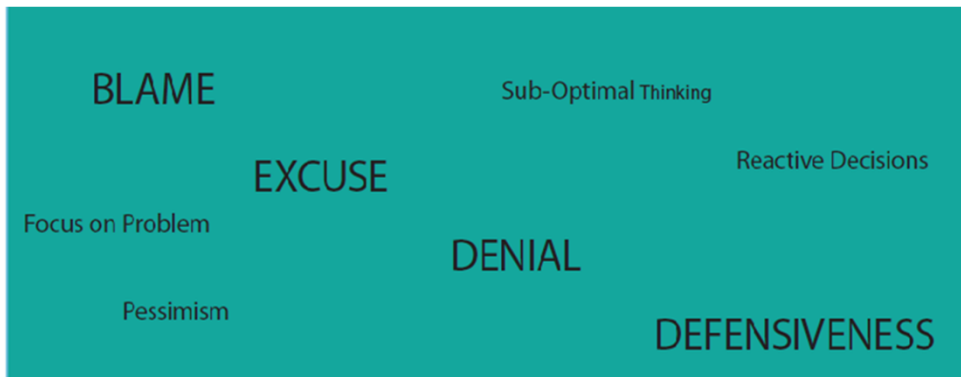


# Compass of Responsibility

## Build Up



## Tear Down



# GROUP ACTIVITY

## BUILD UP, TEAR DOWN ACTIVITY

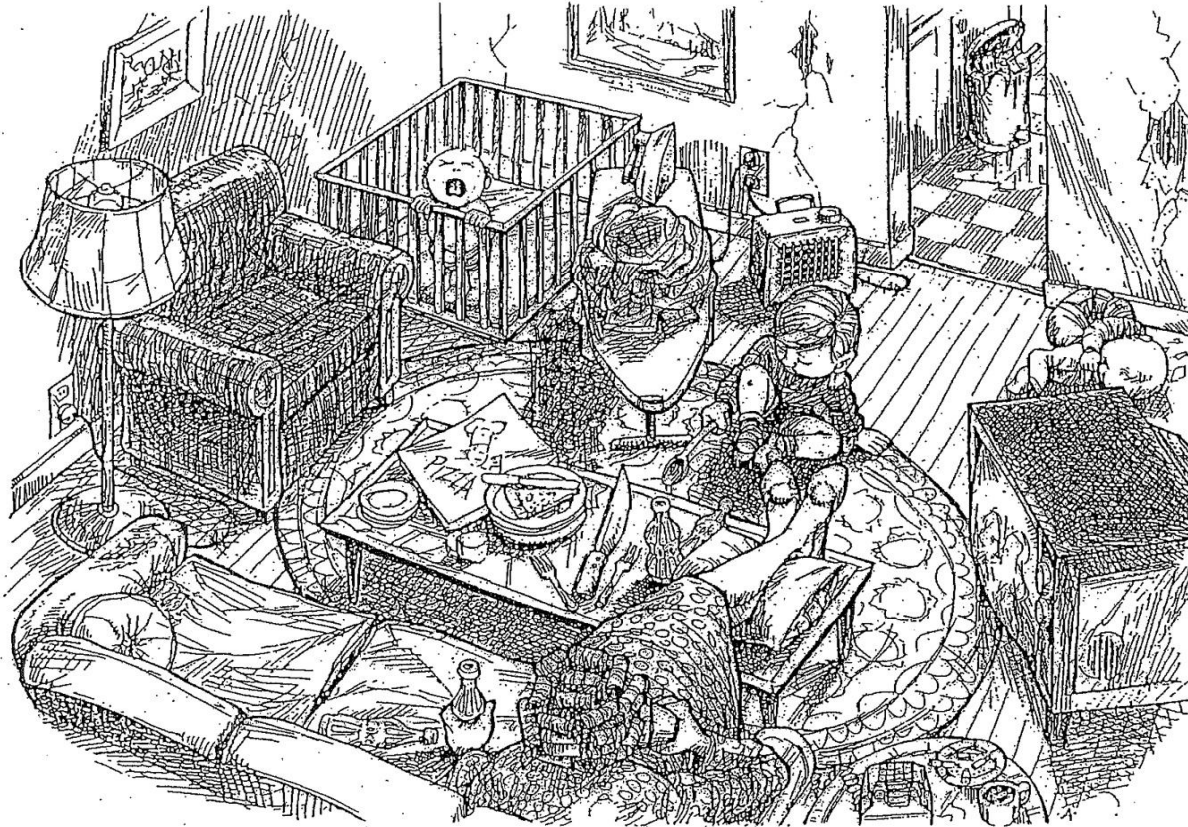


1. Choose a Partner. Partner 1: share a recent short incident in your life
2. Partner 2 respond first with a tear down comment
3. Partner 2 then respond with a build up comment
4. Reverse roles
5. Discuss



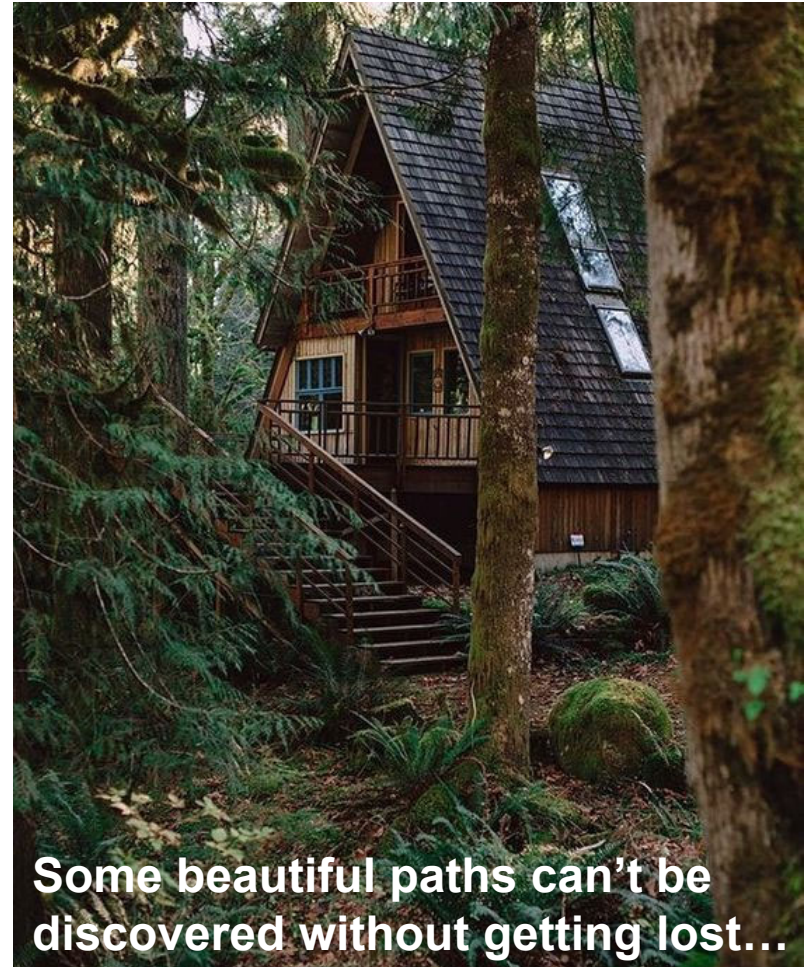
# What Do You see?

Developed by Kennedy Dept. for Social Services, Family Services Training Branch. Used with permission.



# Finding Your Way Back

- Remerging to do what you believe
- Monitor your drift
- Take care of yourself
- Use your team to put you back on the path when needed



Some beautiful paths can't be discovered without getting lost...



# Finding Your Way



# The Communication Dance

Virginia Satir

You are face to face with me. Your senses take in what I look like, how I sound, what I smell like, and, if you happened to touch me, how I feel to you. Your brain then reports what this means to you, calling on your past experiences, your book learning. Depending on your brain reports, you feel comfortable or uncomfortable, your body is loose or tight.

Meanwhile, I am going through something similar. I too, see, hear, feel something, think something, have a past, and have values and expectations and my body is doing something...



# Practice More Skills for Engagement





# **GROUP ACTIVITY**

## **TEAM THINK TANK - INTEGRATION**

- 1. Think of a challenging engagement example and be prepared to share**
- 2. Take turns sharing with the larger group**
- 3. Class takes turns, using all that has been talked about today, suggesting strategies and/or role playing strategies to assist in successful engagement**

Thank You  
Questions, Comments, and Feedback

NEVER  
Give  
Up!

