

Ep. 3a A Case Management Example

Ep. 3b How to Evaluate Family Strengths and Challenges

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the Home Thrive Scale™ address the rights of the child outlined in the UNCRC?

The Home Thrive Scale™ is a rights-based tool addressing 24 of the 42 rights listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (see the illustration below outlining the rights covered by the Home Thrive Scale™). The UNCRC is the most complete statement of children’s rights produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history.

	RIGHT TO <i>best interests</i> OF THE CHILD		RIGHT TO <i>making rights</i> REAL		RIGHT TO <i>family guidance as</i> CHILDREN DEVELOP
	RIGHT TO <i>life, survival</i> AND DEVELOPMENT		RIGHT TO <i>keeping families</i> TOGETHER		RIGHT TO <i>respect for</i> CHILDREN'S VIEWS
	RIGHT TO <i>sharing thoughts</i> FREELY		RIGHT TO <i>protection</i> OF PRIVACY		RIGHT TO <i>responsibility</i> OF PARENTS
	RIGHT TO <i>protection</i> FROM VIOLENCE		RIGHT TO <i>children</i> WITHOUT FAMILIES		RIGHT TO <i>children with</i> DISABILITIES
	RIGHT TO <i>health, water, food</i> ENVIRONMENT		RIGHT TO <i>review of a child's</i> PLACEMENT		RIGHT TO <i>social and</i> ECONOMIC HELP
	RIGHT TO <i>food, clothing,</i> A SAFE HOME		RIGHT TO <i>access to</i> EDUCATION		RIGHT TO <i>rest, play,</i> CULTURE, ARTS
	RIGHT TO <i>protection from</i> HARMFUL WORK		RIGHT TO <i>protection from</i> HARMFUL DRUGS		RIGHT TO <i>protection from</i> SEXUAL ABUSE
	RIGHT TO <i>prevention of sale and</i> TRAFFICKING		RIGHT TO <i>protection from</i> EXPLOITATION		RIGHT TO <i>everyone must know</i> CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

What do I do if the child says they don't really want to go back home?

It is uncommon for a child to say that they don't want to return to their family. With this in mind, understand that there must be something significant that is concerning to the child. Listen carefully to the child and help them to feel comfortable enough to share their thoughts and feelings.

A child should never be forced into a situation in which they are uncomfortable, but there very well might be interventions that could make the environment more suitable. Don't give up immediately; take the time needed to comprehend the child's situation and determine what could be put in place to make the family home feel safe and inviting.

What if a Red Flag shows up on the Home Thrive Scale™ - how do I ensure the safety of the child until it can be resolved?

Safety is the utmost consideration when reintegrating the child, and the child should never be placed in a threatening environment.

If the child is in danger, most often the child is not returned home, or is removed from the dangerous situation. However, give serious consideration to removing the perpetrator instead so the child can remain with their family. While the goal is to keep the family intact, offenders, even if they are family members, should not be allowed in the family home unless and until they are rehabilitated.

Report abuse to the proper authorities, and plan for interventions that will provide long term solutions to the situation. Reassess the situation frequently.

How can I prioritize child safeguarding throughout the reintegration process?

Organizations working with children and families need a Child Safeguarding Policy (CSP) in place to make sure their staff, operations, and programs keep children safe, promote their well-being, and do no harm to children. All staff members, partners, associates, and volunteers must abide by the policy, and it is important to work in partnership with parents/caregivers to ensure that the child's needs are met and that they are protected from abuse.

The policy needs to outline actions under four categories:

- Awareness - communicate to staff, children, families, communities and others regarding the problem of child abuse and the risks to children.
- Prevention - Working with staff and others to minimize the risk to children, through awareness and good practice.
- Emphasizing the need for children to be active agents in their own protection, whenever possible, through promoting children's identity, life skills, and participation.
- Reporting - Training staff to take seriously any concerns raised and on the steps to take regarding the safety of children
- Responding - Taking appropriate and effective action to support and protect children where concerns arise regarding suspected abuse.

For more information on Miracle Foundation's Child Safeguarding Policy, contact safelyhome@miraclefoundation.org

Is the Home Thrive Scale™ available for anyone to use? How do I maintain a simple database of all cases? Is there someone I can talk to if I have questions about how to implement it?

Miracle Foundation developed the Home Thrive Scale™ for use with the children and families that we serve, however recognizing its value in the case management process, we are pleased to share the tool with other organizations working with vulnerable children.

Alongside the tool, we have developed an effective tracking tool, the Case Management Tracker, to maintain a database of cases so that all information can be stored and accessed in one spot. The [Home Thrive Scale™](#), corresponding [Guidelines](#) for use, and the [Case Management Tracker](#) are all available on our website at no cost.

We have also created an animated video that walks you through the details of utilizing the Home Thrive Scale™ for assessment and planning purposes. The process is brought to life in [this video](#) through the use of a case study to illustrate the thought process behind required entries into the tool.

If you would like to speak to us about any of these resources, please contact us at safelyhome@miraclefoundation.org.

What is a multidisciplinary team (MDT) and how do I set one up?

A holistic approach is required when assessing the needs of a child/family, so it is important to include input from any and all professionals connected to the case. This list includes, but is not limited to:

- Teachers, coaching teachers, individuals providing educational support
- Healthcare workers, especially if there are specific conditions requiring treatment
- Mental health professionals
- Caregivers and social workers at the child's current residence
- Community and religious leaders

Of course, input from the child and family must be included, and in some cases extended family and friends/neighbors should be contacted. The goal is to gather as much information as possible about the child and family's circumstances.

Ideally, all members of the MDT will meet together at the same time so discussion can be generated, but it is often not possible, and it is not necessary as long as the appropriate information is gathered from each. You may want to provide the appropriate section of your assessment tool to each as a way of guiding them regarding what type of information is needed. Then, be sure to include their input during case discussions.