## Profile of Parenting Study (POPS)

A Decision Support Tool for Potential Foster, Kinship or Adoptive Parents



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The Profile of Parenting Study is a tool developed in Tennessee to assist in identifying and developing potential foster, kinship or adoptive parents. The POPS build from the foundation of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), the Family Advocacy & Support Tool (FAST), and the Adult Needs and Strengths (ANSA) and the five protective factors that are at the heart of the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Strengthening Families Initiative. A large number of individuals have collaborated in the development of the POPS including Michael Leach, Lawanda Christmon-Meneese, April Anderson and Rebecca Buckles of Vanderbilt Center of Excellence, Theresa Benson, Angela Kranhold, Heather Helton of University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Meghan Posey of Camelot Care Centers, Inc., as well as the 30 states, national and federal partners, and thousands of program practitioners that are part of the Strengthening Families National Network.

The Profile of Parenting Study is an open domain tool, designed to support the identification and development of foster parents. The POPS is developed from a communication perspective so as to facilitate the linkage between the assessment process and the design of development plans in determining next steps and additional training need or support for the people interested in becoming foster, kinship or adoptive parents. The POPS can be a guide to make sure all pertinent information is gathered and we plan around identified family needs and strengths. It can be used collaboratively with prospective parents as they should be part of the planning process. The POPS can be used as either a prospective assessment tool for decision support during the process of planning services, or as a retrospective assessment tool based on the review of existing information for use in the design of service systems.

Hopefully this tool will serve as a valuable contribution to those states who are moving toward taking a protective factors approach in their child welfare practice. For more information and about the national Strengthening Families Initiative and more tools for use with child welfare practice see also the Strengthening Families website at <a href="http://strengtheningfamilies.net">http://strengtheningfamilies.net</a>.

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Rev. 10/2013 . POPS version 1.3.3

#### Manual

#### FOUR KEY COMPONENTS OF A COMMUNIMETRIC TOOL

- 1. Items are selected based on relevance to planning. Items are selected because they might lead you down different pathways of service planning.
- 2. The POPS is an item-level tool. Each item should be relevant to what you might do next. Action levels for all items. Levels of items (0, 1, 2, 3) translate immediately into action levels.
- 3. The POPS is descriptive. It is about the 'what' not about the 'why'. This is useful in working with families. The initial focus of the assessment is to describe where needs and strengths exist not to determine why they exist. Stigma and judgment come from the 'why' so this strategy helps initial rapport with families. They 'why' may be obtained in the interview.
- 4. The ratings are about the applicant, not about the service. Rate needs when masked by interventions.

#### **Anchor Definition Meaning**

#### **NEEDS-**No need no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention. 1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention. 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need. 3 Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting STRENGTHS-Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well developed area. This individual could teach others 1 Useful Strength—this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential resource parent. 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity but not yet able to support effective 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

#### Utilization

- The tool can be used collaboratively with prospective parents.
- Any item in the strength section rated as a "0" must show documentation in the appropriate narrative section showing why this is a centerpiece strength.
- Any item rated as a '2' or '3' must be discussed in the appropriate narrative section on why this is a actionable need or a strength that needs to be built.
- If scored a "2" or "3" elaborate on areas of weakness and how to improve.
- Any item rated as a '2' or '3' must be discussed with supervisor to address approval status or future training/supervision options. These training/supervision options must be discussed in the home study.
- Refer to Documentation of the Resource Family Home Study manual for example questions to help gather information needed to complete the POPS.
- Resource parents will be reassessed during reassessment period.
- Resource parents can be reassessed at *anytime* there are concerns about their ability to parent. (E.g. SIU, several disruptions, violations of policy, etc.)

Rev. 10/2013 POPS version 1.3.3

# Profile of Parenting Study (POPS) Tool

Resource Home ID:	Date:	_ Initial	0	Reassessment	0
Applicant/Resource Parent I	Family Name (s):				
Applicant/Resource Parent #	#1 Name				
Applicant/Resource Parent #	<sup>‡</sup> 2 Name				
Assessor:	Print Name		Sig	nature	
	ervisor will review and approve aft eas of weakness that will need follo itional assistance.				
Team Leader:	Print Name		Sig	gnature	
Interview With	<b>Location</b>		Date		
Interview With	Location		Date		
Interview With	Location		Date		
Interview With	Location		Date		
Interview With	Logotion		Doto		

## I. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

DESCRIPTIONS	OF	ACTION	LEV	<b>VELS</b>
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**KEY:** 0 Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well developed area. This individual could teach others

- Useful Strength— this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential resource parent.
- Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity, but not yet able to support effective parenting
- No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applicant	/Resource Parent #1	Applicant/Resource Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
1. Knowledge of child's needs	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
2. Nutrition management	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
3. Discipline	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
4. Supervision	0000	0000
5. Learning environment	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
6. Effective parenting approaches	0000	0000
7. Boundaries	0000	0000
8. Primary care	0000	0000
9. Value of child's play	0000	0000
10. Expectations	0000	0000
11. Birth sibling relationship	0000	0000
12. Child & birth family background	0000	0000
13. Working with birth parents	0000	0000

## II. Ability to Nurture Social & Emotional Competence of Children

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS

**KEY:** 0 Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well developed area. This individual could teach others

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- Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity, but not yet able to support effective parenting
- No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applic	ant/Resource Parent #1	Applicant/Resource Parent #2
	0 1 2 3 NA	0 1 2 3 NA
14. Empathy	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
15. Ability to listen	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
16. Impact of own behavior	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
17. Communication	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
18. Managing abuse/neglect behavior	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
19. Managing sexual abuse behavior	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
20. Managing unruliness/delinquency	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
21. Managing separation & loss	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
22. Adopted child status	00000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ \circ$
23. Post adoption contact	00000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ \circ$

## **III.** Identification and Use of Concrete Supports

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS

**KEY:** 0 Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well developed area. This individual could teach others

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- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applie	cant/Resource Parent #1	Applicant/Resource Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
24. Involvement with care	0000	0000
25. Organization	0000	0000
26. Knowledge of service options	0000	0000
27. Knowledge of rights and respon.	0000	0000

## IV. Positive Family Community and Social Connections

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

KEY: 0 Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well developed area. This individual could teach others

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- Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity but not yet able to support effective parenting
- No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

Applica	Applicant/Resource Parent #1	
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
28. Caregiver collaboration	0000	0000
29. Partner relationships	0000	0000
30. Relationships with extended family	0000	0000
31. Community involvement	0000	0000
32. Natural supports	0000	0000
33. Family versatility	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

## V. Parental Resilience

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 Centerpiece Strength—this is a very well developed area. This individual could teach others

- Useful Strength—this is a developed area that will facilitate the individual's success in parenting or no information regarding skills/abilities as potential resource parent.
- 2 Identified Strength—this is an area of some interest or capacity, but not yet able to support effective parenting
- 3 No Strength Identified—this is an area that must be fully developed

	Applicant/Resource Parent #1	Applicant/ Resource Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
34. Recreation	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000
35. Optimism	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000

Rev. 10/2013 4 POPS version 1.3.3

		Profile of Parenting Study	
36. Problem solving	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
37. Accepting of diversity	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	
38. Resilience	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	

### VI. Parental Health

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

- 1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.
- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- 3 Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

	Applicant/Resource Parent #1	Applicant/ Resource Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
39. Physical health	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
40. Mental health	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
41. Substance use	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
42. Developmental	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
43. Post traumatic reactions	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
44. Hygiene and self care	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
45. Childhood hx of deprivation	on/trauma O O O O	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
46. Childhood hx of victimizat		$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

## VII. Family Economics

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS**

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

- 1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.
- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

	Applicant/Resource Parent #1	Applicant/Resource Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
47. Financial resources	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
48. Employment	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
49. Transportation	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
50. Residential stability	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
51. Resources for children	0000	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

Rev. 10/2013 5 POPS version 1.3.3

## VIII. Home Safety Factors

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

- 1 Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.
- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

Appli	cant/Resource Parent #1	Applicant/Resource Parent #2
	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3
52. Child Safety	0000	0000
53. Securing meds/weapons/hazards	0000	0000
54. Neighborhood safety resources	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$	0000
55. Condition of the home	0000	0000
56. Domestic Violence in home	0000	0000

## IX. Children or Other Adults Residing in (or frequently visiting) the Home

#### 57. DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTION LEVELS -

1

**KEY:** 0 No need, no action. No evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires training/intervention.

- Watchful waiting/prevention. There is a need for monitoring or possibly preventive training/intervention.
- 2 Action needed. Some training/intervention is needed to address the problem/need.
- Immediate/Intensive action. This is a significant need that prevents individual from currently being an option for parenting

			0 1 2 3
57. Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
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Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
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Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$
Name	Relationship	High Risk Behaviors	$\circ \circ \circ \circ$

Rev. 10/2013 6 POPS version 1.3.3