

Introducing the Family Journey Assessment

To Parents/Caregivers

*These paragraphs contain information that you can use to introduce the FJA to the families with whom you work. These phrases are only suggestions to help describe the FJA and the research components. We encourage you to explain things in your own words as much as possible – this helps show that you are comfortable with using the FJA as part of your work with the family. **PLEASE DO NOT HAND THIS OUT TO FAMILIES.***

It is important to know whether the work that you and I are carrying out together is helping you and your family. Because of this, I and all Parent Support Providers are going to be checking in with families on a regular basis using an interview called the Family Journey Assessment. Every few months, I will be talking with you about how things are going in terms of (1) the support you are receiving, (2) your work with others involved in our child's care, (3) making decisions, (4) advocating for your child, (5) getting things accomplished, and (6) the strain you may be feeling. During these discussions, you and I will decide together what areas of our work together to concentrate on in the future. **The goal of the Family Journey Assessment is to help us work effectively together to address your needs, build upon your strengths, and, ultimately, reach your goals.**

On the basis of our discussions, I will fill out a checklist which summarizes how you and I feel things are going at that time. This checklist will be kept by me and will be an important part of checking on the progress of our work together. It will be confidential. However, we are working on a research study with the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development to see if the Family Journey Assessment is a good way to keep track of the work that families and PSPs are doing, so we send a copy of the checklist to Georgetown. **We don't send any of the information that can identify you or your child.** Your checklist will be assigned an identification number but no names, and absolutely no contact information or information about your child or his/her *[involvement in xx services or anything else that the family member may be concerned about.]* will be sent with the checklist.

I want you to know that having me fill out the Family Journey Assessment checklist after our discussions of the different areas is up to you. Your decision will not affect our relationship. Do you have any questions?