



Readiness Continuum

| | WHO AM I? (IDENTITY) Sense of Self | WHO AM I? (IDENTITY) Understanding Story |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Clarification | Views self as unworthy and unlikable; cannot identify likes, dislikes and preferences; lacks confidence and/or has had limited opportunity to explore interests. | Shows minimal interest in exploring events of life; has gaps in information about events leading to separation from family. |
| | Open to exploring interests; beginning to identify likes, dislikes, and preferences. | Is gaining understanding about the reasons for separation from parents, asks questions and seeks information related to events, can share with others what they know about events. |
| Integration | Can identify positive qualities about self; feeling more assured and self-confident in various social contexts. | Beginning to explore feelings about the events of their lives and the roles of various people connected to those events. |
| | Beginning to maintain individuality when engaged with others who have different likes and preferences; believes they bring value to their relationships. | Has greater understanding about how the actions or inactions of others has impacted life events; is reflective about relationships in the context of life events. |
| Actualization | Able to identify success in accomplishments; can begin to see a future that is consistent with their values, beliefs, and interests. | Able to give meaning to their relationships and is making decisions about how people important to them will fit into their lives moving forward. |
| | Views self as being worthy; has confidence in ability to take steps toward future goals. | Expresses acceptance of life events and can describe how past events have shaped who they are today; can tell others their story. |



Readiness Continuum

| | WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? (LOSS) Painful Feelings | WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? (LOSS) Coping Skills |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Clarification | Frequently exhibits behaviors associated with the expressions of loss (e.g. absentmindedness, forgetfulness, distractibility, confusion, denial, anger, sadness). | Frequently expresses frustration; shows aggression toward self; unable to tolerate disappointment. |
| | Expresses feelings related to losses; may be experiencing feelings associated with rejection and abandonment from caregivers. | Increased capacity to cope with feelings associated with disappointments, fears and losses as greater understanding of these events is gained. |
| Integration | Engages in activities to develop meaning about relationships; struggles to make sense out of relationships that were both loving and hurtful or painful. | Unable to use relationships to process, manage, and resolve feelings of disappointment, anger, sadness, happiness. |
| | Can accept feelings of loss for those they have been separated from while also accepting caring and love from others. | Beginning to use relationships to process, manage, and work through feelings of anger, disappointment, sadness, happiness. |
| Actualization | Acknowledges painful memories; understands and accepts reasons for separation from caregivers/family members appropriate to developmental stage. | Can recognize that disappointments do not have to interfere with movement toward future goals. |
| | Can express feelings of pain from losses in manageable ways; is able to seek comfort and support from others; has reconciled losses and shows ability to move forward. | Can manage change with minimal frustration and is learning to trust in their own ability to handle situations that pose challenges. |



Readiness Continuum

| | WHERE AM I GOING? (ATTACHMENT) Building Trust | WHERE AM I GOING? (ATTACHMENT) Safety in Relationships |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Clarification | Does not engage with caregivers or accept parental requests, reasonable parental requests often lead to confrontations/control battles. | Does not acknowledge the hurtful aspects of parental relationships; has minimal interest in engaging other individuals in relationships. |
| | Beginning to understand the role of parental figures to protect and provide safety. | Does not perceive safety in relationships; has limited trust of those who want to support them. |
| Integration | Learning to trust others as needs are being met; exploring past caregiving relationships around unmet needs. | Verbalizes positive comments about being cared for while talking about previous caregiving relationships. |
| | Understands that others can have their best interests in mind; beginning to accept guidance from safe adults. | Is feeling more comfortable communicating needs to caregivers; has a belief in the caregiver's willingness to meet those needs. |
| Actualization | Responds positively when parents/adults offer support to help them achieve their goals. | Recognizes how others meet their needs; interacts with others in ways that reinforce importance to each other. |
| | Seeks out advice and support from safe parenting figures, while showing developmentally appropriate autonomy. | Engages in the reciprocity and mutuality in relationships; is able engage with others in ways that demonstrate cooperation and compromise. |



Readiness Continuum

| | HOW WILL I GET THERE? (ATTACHMENT) With Parents/Adults | HOW WILL I GET THERE? (ATTACHMENT) With Peers | WHEN WILL I KNOW I BELONG? (BELONGINGNESS) Sense of Belonging |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Clarification | Rejects caregivers; does not respond positively to caregiver initiation of interaction; may feel unlovable. | Is uncomfortable and unwilling to engage in peer related activities. | Is only able to see living with caregivers who have limited capacity to meet their needs. |
| | Understands that while others may have love for them, they have not been able to care for or protect them. | Willing to engage with peers, but has social skill deficits that create barriers to interactions that are satisfying. | Explores how parents or others may not have provided for their needs. |
| Integration | Expresses willingness to explore relationships with others; wonders if parent still loves them. | Expresses desire to have friendships; talks about peers and peer related activities. | Is starting to explore how relationship with parents/caregivers may change if returning home is less certain. |
| | Understands parent's love for them even if parent does not have the capacity to provide safety; does not blame self for removal from family. | Engages in developmentally appropriate activities with peers at school and/or in the community. | Considers possibility of new parenting relationships, willing to meet families who may provide permanency. |
| Actualization | Recognizes how different people meet various needs; can identify people as permanent connections; accepts membership in many families. | Has established satisfying relationships with peers at school and/or in the community. | Visualizes permanency in current caregiver relationships; verbalizes readiness to "join" or "rejoin" a specific family. |
| | Can engage in new parenting relationships while maintaining past caregiver/parental relationships. | Has reciprocal relationships with a close circle of peers to whom they feel connected. | Able to access a network of people who can meet needs; claims membership in a family or families where they feel secure. |