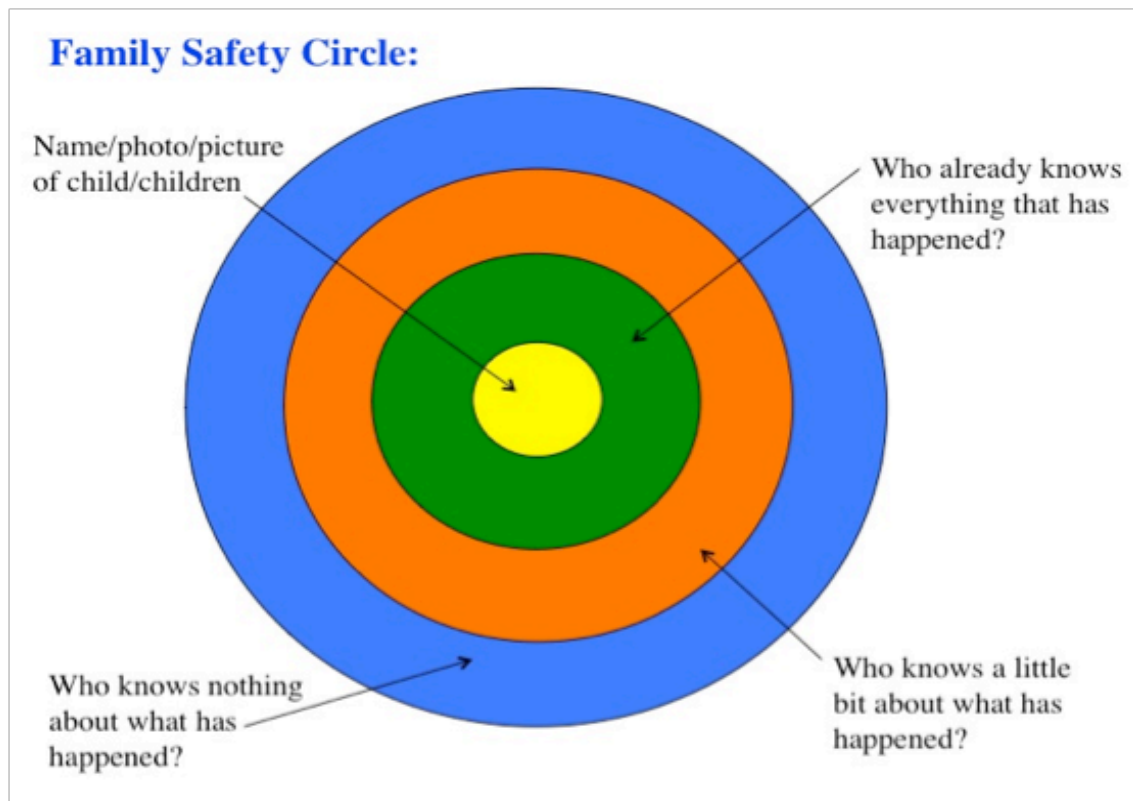


## Family Safety Circles: Identifying people for the safety network

Family Safety Circles is a visual tool to help identify people for the child's safety network and to help professionals and family members have conversations about safety networks, the role of the safety network and assessing who can be part of the safety network.

I usually use the family safety circles tool on the very first visit with a family, when I am talking about the need for us to work together to build a safety plan to address the concerns and the importance of having a safety network, of family and friends and involved professionals, who will work together to ensure that the children will always be safe in the family's care in the future.



### **Process**

Initial question (inner circle): "Who are the people in your life and your child's life who already know what has happened (that led to your child being in care/to child protection services being involved with your family)?"

Middle circle: "Who are the people in your life and the kids' lives who know a little bit about what has happened, who maybe know that something has happened but don't know the details?"

Outer circle: "Who are the people who don't know anything about what has happened?"

*Further information available in Family Safety Circles booklet ([www.aspirationsconsultancy.com](http://www.aspirationsconsultancy.com))*

# Prompt sheet for using the Safety Circles

---

## 1. Talking about the need for a safety network

The first step in the process of using the Family Safety Circles tool flows directly out of the conversation with parents/caregivers about what we mean by a safety network and the fact that a safety network needs to be in place for safety planning to progress.

## 2. The Inner Circle

*“Who are the people in your life and your child’s life who already know about what has happened that led to your child/children being in care (or to child protection services being involved with your family)?”*

## Giving compliments

Pay attention to what parents/caregivers have already done that will help to build future safety and acknowledge this with compliments, wherever and whenever possible.

## 3. The Middle Circle

*“Who are the people in your life and the kids’ lives who know a little bit about what has happened; who don’t know the whole story but maybe know some of what has happened? Or maybe they know that something has happened but don’t know any of the details?”*

## 4. The Outer Circle

*“Who are the people in your life and your children’s lives who don’t know anything about what has happened?”*

## 5. Moving people from the outer circles to the inner circle

- *“Who else from these outer circles do you think needs to be part of this inner circle?”*
- *“Is there anyone in these two outer circles who you have thought about telling or come close to telling, but you haven’t quite gotten there yet?”*
- *“Who would Grandma (for example - pick a person already in the inner circle) say needs to be in this inner circle with her?”*
- *“Who would the kids want to have in this inner circle?”*
- *“You know all of these people, I don’t know them yet, but who do you think I would want to have in this inner circle?”*
- *“Who of all of these people do you feel most comfortable with/most understood by and think would be important to have as part of the safety network?”*

## 6. Discussing the following:

- What is the role of the safety network?
- How many people do we need in the safety network?
- What we mean by ‘safety’ people and how is this decided?
- What do people need to know to be part of the safety network?
- How do we ensure that everyone is informed about the concerns?