

# RATERS

## Who should you invite?

Using TOP can help you improve outcomes for the kids in your care. However, nothing will be possible without support from the most important people in the child's life. Gathering information from multiple Raters about a child's well-being is key to understanding how the child is doing.

Before inviting Raters, it is crucial to feel comfortable explaining the importance of TOP to parents, clinicians, teachers, and other stakeholders. Raters need to feel that their opinions are valued, and that they are engaging in something important for the child. Use this information as a guide when you explain to raters why their voice is important!

### Parents:

Information from biological parents is a critical part of gathering a complete picture of child well-being. Additionally, asking biological parents to complete a TOP assessment is a great way to ensure they remain involved in the child's care.

### Placement Families:

Placement families are often the people who see the child the most, and are the only people who are around while the child is sleeping. Asking placement families to complete a TOP is important when building a strong relationship with them. By asking for their opinion, you are making sure their voice is heard.

### Youth:

Asking youth to fill out a TOP assessment as a self-evaluation can empower them to provide input into their own care. Perhaps most importantly, self-evaluations give you insight into how the client perceives themselves to be doing.

### Clinicians:

Clinicians can provide insight into the behavioral health needs of a child. Engaging clinicians will enable you to provide better wrap-around services by involving all members of a child's care team.

### Teachers and other School Staff:

Teachers and other school staff often get to observe more peer-to-peer interactions than any other rater, and can provide valuable insight into a child's social functioning.

### Other Caseworkers:

There may be times when you are working with other Caseworkers who may not be familiar with the TOP. They may have observed the child at different times or in different settings, and can contribute important information to a TOP assessment.

## Tips for Engaging Raters

- Consider explaining TOP during your initial interaction with Raters. This is a helpful way to lay the groundwork for future participation.
- Carry paper TOP forms with you to every home visit. Some raters may not have easy access to a computer, or may prefer to complete the TOP with your help.
- Schedule a time with Parents, Guardians, or Placement Families to complete the TOP together. Your guidance may be very helpful!