

Foster care matching tool

Child Safety and Foster and Kinship Care services will work in partnership to identify the most suitable care arrangement for the child.

How to use the tool:

- A. Complete the first two columns of table with information about the child and the proposed carer. The existing text in these two columns is examples or prompts.
- B. Assess the level of the match for each factor
 - High:** The needs of the child can be met by the carer
 - Medium:** The needs of the child can be partly met by the carer, so supplementary strategies need to be in place to fully meet the child's needs
 - Low:** The needs of the child will not be met by the carer, so alternative strategies need to be in place to fully meet the child's needs.
 - N/A:** This factor does not apply to the child.
- C. For all matches rated 'Medium' or 'Low', identify supports, services or strategies to address the gap in the match.

Child details		
Name:	Gender:	DOB:

Carer details	
Name:	Location:

Information considered in completing this matching tool (tick all applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> PSU referral form <input type="checkbox"/> Child Information Form (CIF) <input type="checkbox"/> Additional information from CSSC/PSU <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Carer Assessment Report <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Carer Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of approval <input type="checkbox"/> Conversation with the carer <input type="checkbox"/> Conversation with the child/other children in the carer household <input type="checkbox"/> Information from carers support worker <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Foster and kinship care service information	
Foster and kinship care service:	
Name of staff involved in matching tool:	
Position in service:	

Summary of agreed additional supports to be provided by care service:	
Approved by:	
Position:	
Date:	

Child Safety information	
Child safety service centre	
Placement services unit	
Summary of agreed additional supports to be provided by Child Safety:	
Approved by:	
Position:	
Date:	

Other relevant information

Child Safety acknowledges the Association of Children’s Welfare Agencies (ACWA) for their work regarding this tool.

Factors	Child's needs or circumstances	Carer characteristics	Level of match	Strategy to address gaps in the match (if medium or low match)
1. Type and length of placement	Type of placement required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency • respite-ongoing • short-term • long term Intended length of placement. Age and gender of child/ren. Other info.	Congruent with Certificate of Approval and Foster Care Agreement (FCA). Carer is able and willing to meet placement length and type. Child's age and gender fits with other children in the household. For long-term placement, child's and carers age matches with this goal.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
2. Service type	Child's assessed level of support needs is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate • high • complex • extreme 	For child with complex or extreme support needs, carer is supported by an Intensive Foster Care program. For child with moderate or high needs, carer is affiliated with a General Foster Care program.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
3. Child Placement Principle	Child is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both	Carer is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a member of child's family • from child's community or language group • an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander who is compatible with the child's community or language group • another Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. 	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
		Carer is not indigenous but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lives near the child's family or community or language group. • has a demonstrated capacity for ensuring the child's continuity of connection to kin, country and culture • is committed to facilitating contact between the child and the child's parents and other family members • helping the child to maintain contact with their community or language group • helping the child to maintain a connection with their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture • preserving and enhancing the child's sense of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity 	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	

Factors	Child's needs or circumstances	Carer characteristics	Level of match	Strategy to address gaps in the match (if medium or low match)
4. Safety of child and other children	Child with harmful sexual behaviours <u>AND</u> this may present a risk to others	Consider the risk of harm to other children in household. Carer has had Module 6 training or equivalent and is assessed as competent. Carer has capacity to understand and respond to a child's harmful behaviours. Carer can implement plan designed to mitigate potential threats to safety to others in household.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
	Child demonstrates other unsafe behaviours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is aggressive toward others • is an active suicide risk • is misusing drugs or alcohol 	Consider the risk of harm to other children in household. Carer can provide appropriate level of supervision to child and/or other household children. Carer can adapt to emerging or changing safety needs of child. Carer can implement plan designed to mitigate potential risks to child or other children.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
5. Child's care needs	Health needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no major health problems • some health issues • health issues severely impacting daily functioning 	Carer can meet identified needs. Carer has capacity to meet identified needs. Impact on other household children has been considered.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
	Disability or developmental delay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age appropriate • limited intellectual functioning/development • severely limited intellectual functioning/development 	Carer has experience and can meet identified needs. Carer has capacity to meet identified needs. Carer has capacity to access/maintain required services. Carer is able to seek support to manage their stress. Impact on other household children.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
	Behavioural functioning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high functioning • occasional age-appropriate problems • significant or frequent problems than peers • major problems severely impacting daily functioning 	Carer has capacity to understand and respond to child's behaviours. Carer has skill or capacity to develop required skills to appropriately respond to child's behaviours. Carer has demonstrated a range of strategies to promote positive behaviours.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	

Factors	Child's needs or circumstances	Carer characteristics	Level of match	Strategy to address gaps in the match (if medium or low match)
	Emotional stability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high functioning generally stable, occasional issues significant instability extreme emotional responses with limited functioning 	Carer has capacity to assist in promoting stability and emotional development of child. Impact on other household children.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
	Child's education and learning needs	Identified school is within area identified in FCA. Carer can assist with transport child to preferred school. Carer is available to assist child with homework plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
6. Views of key parties	Child's views about their living arrangement are known.	Carer factors match with child's views.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
	Parents views about their child's living arrangement are known.	Carer factors match with parents views.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
	Importance for child's close proximity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> parents/family siblings community or friends established recreation activities. Level and nature of child's contact with family and community.	Carers location is within reasonable distance to support contact arrangements. Carer can assist with child's travel to enable contact plan to be maintained. Carer can support child to maintain positive connections with family. Carer has an existing or pre-existing relationship with child, siblings or family.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
7. Family and social connection	Nature of child's harm experience. Placement moves or disruptions. Factors contributing to placement disruptions.	Carer has capacity to understand and respond to child's behaviours. Carer has skill or capacity to develop required skills to appropriately respond to child's behaviours. Impact on other children in placement. Carers own trauma history have been considered.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	

Factors	Child's needs or circumstances	Carer characteristics	Level of match	Strategy to address gaps in the match (if medium or low match)
8. Child's trauma experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reunification long-term alternate care other permanency independent living for 15+ 	<p>Carer has had previous experience working toward similar case plan goal.</p> <p>Carer is capable of working to meet the overall case plan goal.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
9. Case plan goal	<p>Child identifies with another culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child has active religious affiliations. 	<p>Carer is from same cultural background or religion.</p> <p>Carer has capacity to maintain child's cultural identity.</p> <p>Carer can support child's religious observances.</p> <p>Carers religion or its level of significance will not impact on child's religious observances.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
10. Child's culture and/or religion	Carers employment	Carers current employment may impact on carers availability – eg child care, before/after school.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
11. Carers lifestyle	Accommodation or vehicle requirements	Carers accommodation or vehicle can meet the placement requirements – eg layout of house; car seating etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
			<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
12. Other factors (identify)				