child and family training

IPSCAN – BUCHAREST 2015

**Assessing Families in Complex Child Care Cases
Using the Family Assessment**

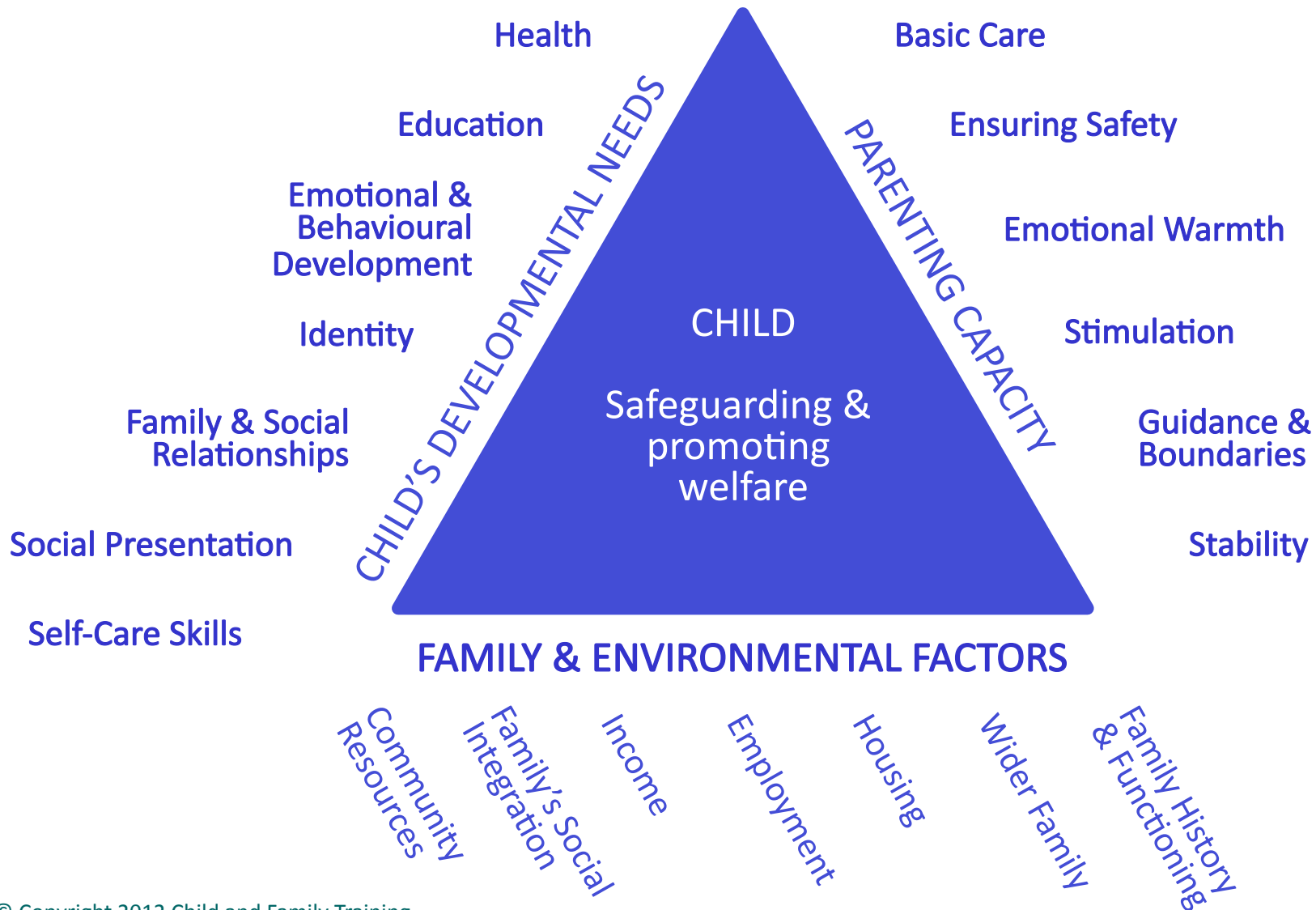**Cheryl Hood**

**Child Protection Decision-Making:
The Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis
Framework (SAAF)**

Stephen Pizzey

www.childandfamilytraining.org.uk

Assessment Framework
A conceptual map of relevant data (information) to be collected

Health

Basic Care

Education

Ensuring Safety

Emotional & Behavioural Development

Emotional Warmth

Identity

Stimulation

Family & Social Relationships

Guidance & Boundaries

Social Presentation

Stability

Self-Care Skills

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

PARENTING CAPACITY

CHILD

Safeguarding & promoting welfare

FAMILY & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Community Resources

Family's Social Integration

Income

Employment

Housing

Wider Family

Family History & Functioning

Working with the Assessment Framework

The Assessment Framework provides a map for assessing the needs of children

- The Child's Developmental Needs Domain of the Assessment triangle maps *Strengths and Impairment* in Development

- The Parenting Capacity Domain is concerned with *Attributability*

- Where there is no observable or measurable impairment, the Parenting Capacity and Family and Environmental Factors Domains are relevant to the *Likelihood* of Impairment

Note that the nature of any impairments is also relevant to attributability e.g. Autism is genetic, Cerebral Palsy is congenital in most instances.
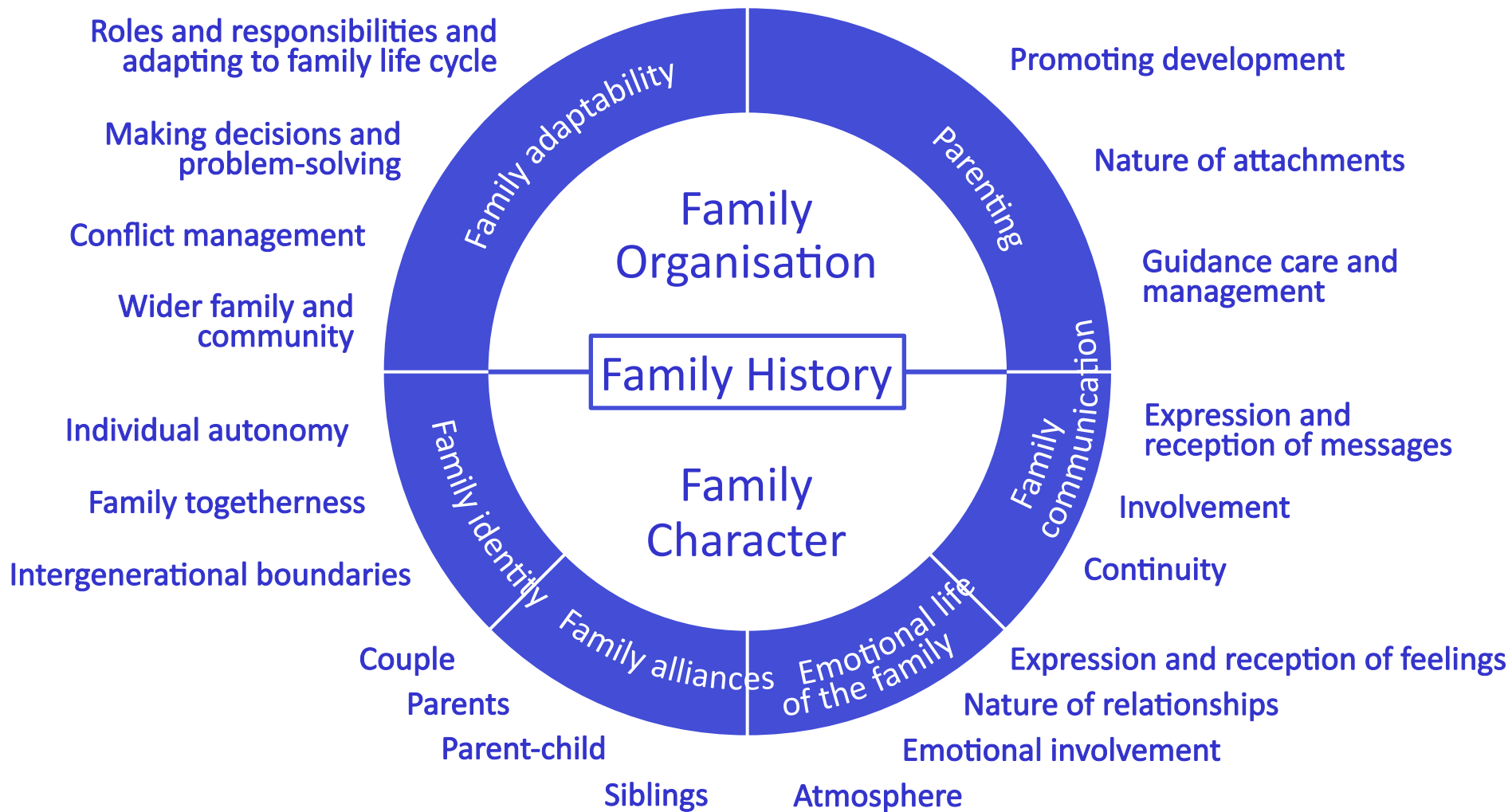
The Family Assessment: origins, research and theory

- Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital – research and work with families

- Systems Theory and Family Therapy (inter-related systems)

- Focal Family Therapy *(impact of history on parenting)*

- Trauma-Organised Family Systems *(impact of trauma)*

- Attachment Theory *(capacity to provide a secure base)*

Principles underpinning the Family Assessment

The *Family Assessment* follows the same principles as the *Assessment Framework*. Further principles include always considering the following when assessing families:
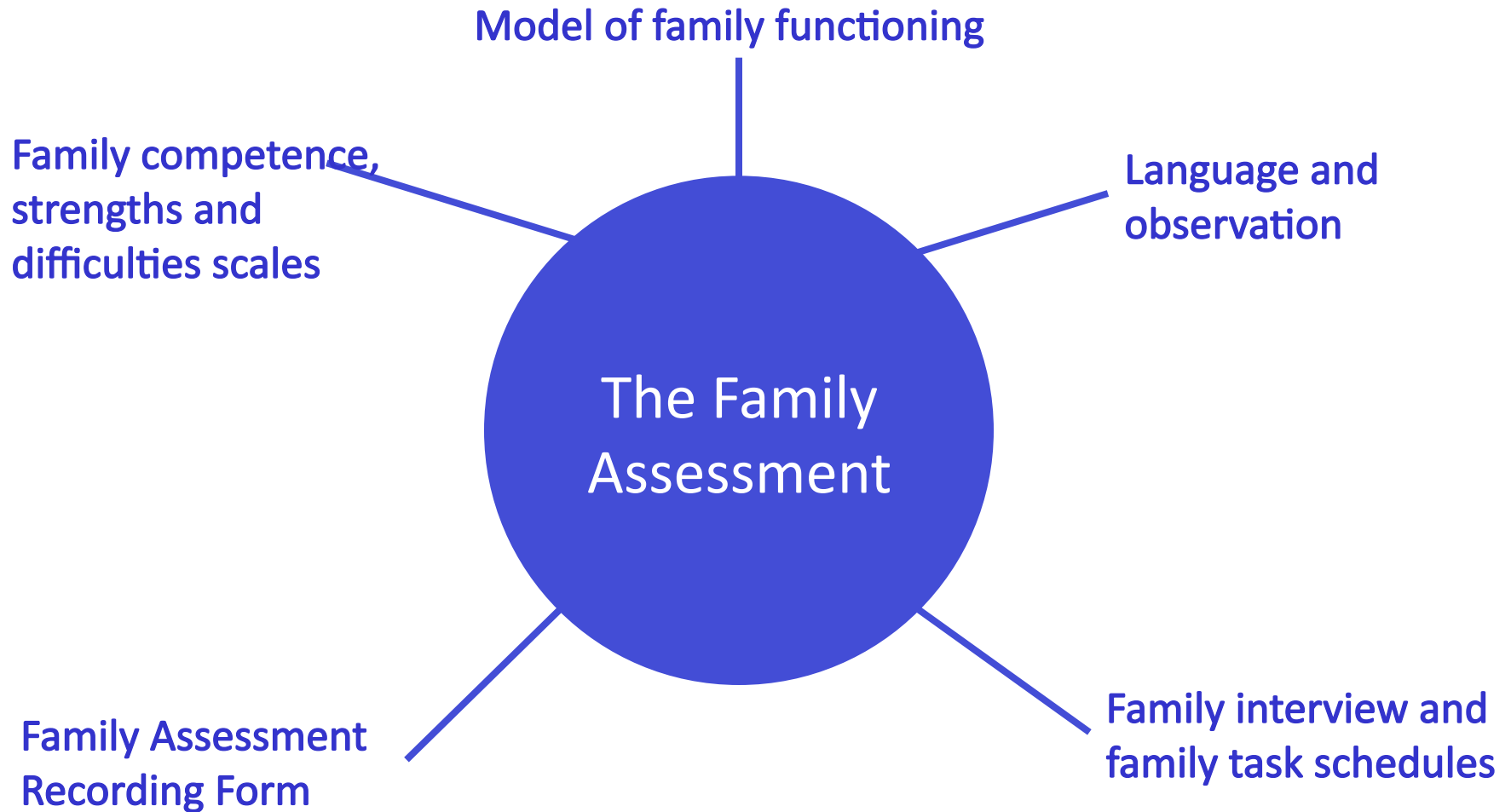
- The Family as a System
- Uniqueness
- Diversity
- Disadvantage
- Discrimination
- Strengths as well as difficulties
- Process of assessment as 'therapeutic' as possible

The Family Assessment Model of Family Functioning: Elements of Family Organisation and Family Character

Roles and responsibilities and adapting to family life cycle

Making decisions and problem-solving

Conflict management

Wider family and community

Individual autonomy

Family togetherness

Intergenerational boundaries

Couple

Parents

Parent-child

Siblings

Family adaptability

Family identity

Family alliances

Family Organisation

Family History

Family Character

Emotional life of the family

Parenting

Family communication

Promoting development

Nature of attachments

Guidance care and management

Expression and reception of messages

Involvement

Continuity

Expression and reception of feelings

Nature of relationships

Emotional involvement

Atmosphere

How the Family Assessment is put Together GUIDE

Model of family functioning

Family competence, strengths and difficulties scales

Language and observation

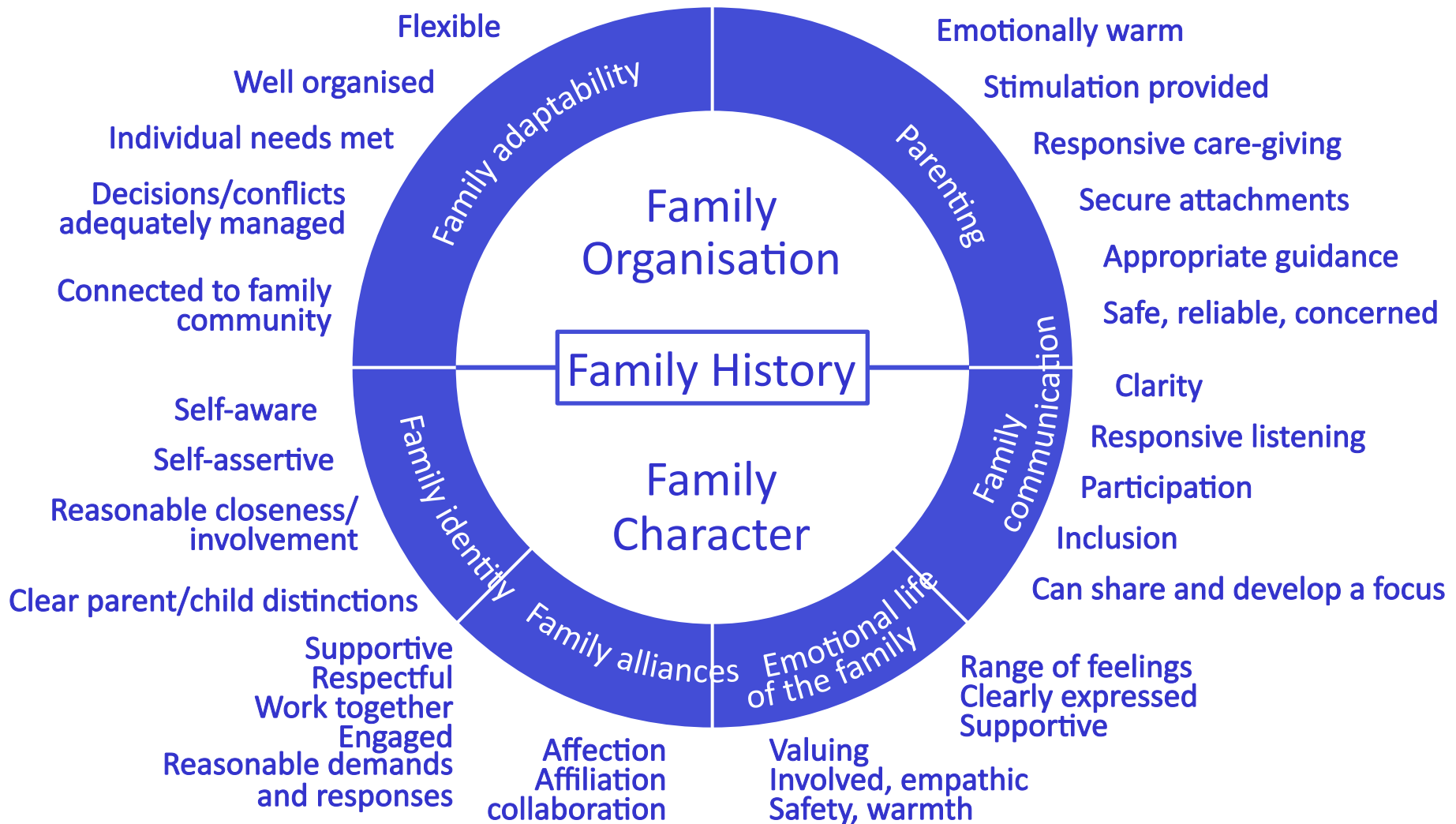## The Family Assessment

Family Assessment Recording Form

Family interview and family task schedules

The Family Assessment Model of Family Functioning: Descriptors for families with 'reasonable strengths'

Flexible
Well organised
Individual needs met
Decisions/conflicts adequately managed
Connected to family community

Self-aware
Self-assertive
Reasonable closeness/ involvement
Clear parent/child distinctions

Supportive
Respectful
Work together
Engaged
Reasonable demands and responses

Affection
Affiliation
collaboration

Emotionally warm
Stimulation provided
Responsive care-giving
Secure attachments
Appropriate guidance
Safe, reliable, concerned

Clarity
Responsive listening
Participation
Inclusion
Can share and develop a focus

Range of feelings
Clearly expressed
Supportive

Valuing
Involved, empathic
Safety, warmth

Family adaptability
Parenting
Family communication
Emotional life of the family
Family alliances
Family identity

Family Organisation
Family History
Family Character

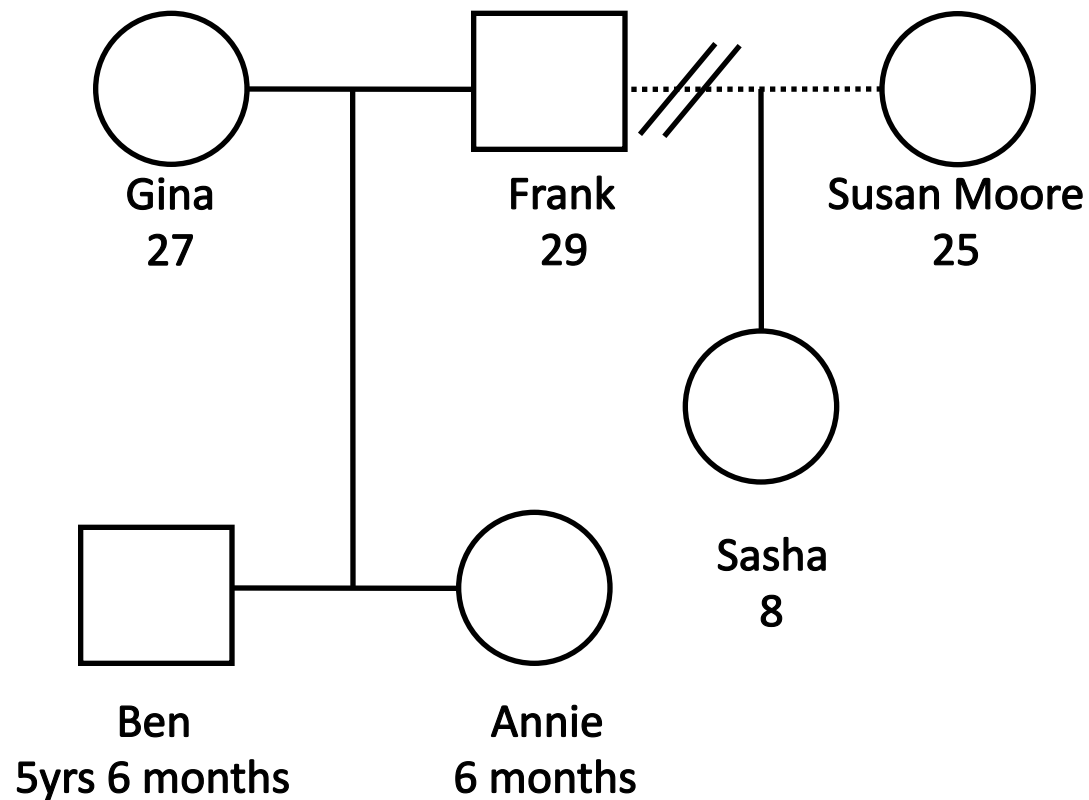# The Family Assessment Model of Family Functioning: Descriptors for families with 'considerable difficulties'

Family adaptability

- Rigid, chaotic
- Minimal adaptation
- Minimal coping
- Continuous conflict or withdrawal
- Cut off or at war with family or community

Parenting

- Lacking stimulation and warmth
- Cold, rejecting
- Unresponsive care-giving
- Serious attachment difficulties
- Guidance absent or punitive
- Failure to protect

Family Organisation

Family History

Family Character

Family identity

- Poor sense of self
- Lack of self-assertiveness
- Over-involvement or isolation
- Rigid or confused roles
- Reversal of roles

Family communication

- Marked messages or minimal interchange
- Failure to listen or acknowledge
- Domination, withdrawal or exclusion by family members
- Disrupted or fragmented communication

Family alliances

- Destructive
- Conflictual, divisive
- No supporting, devaluing
- Rejecting, ignoring, exploitative
- Rivalry fighting

Emotional life of the family

- Absent or overwhelming feelings
- Markedly inappropriate responses
- Attacking, devaluing
- Intense over/under involvement
- Flat, chaotic, painful, unsafe atmosphere

Family Character:
Family Communication & Emotional Life of the Family

Roles and responsibilities and adapting to family life cycle

Making decisions and problem-solving

Conflict management

Wider family and community

Individual autonomy

Family togetherness

Intergenerational boundaries

Couple

Parents

Parent-child

Siblings

Family adaptability

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Family Organisation

Family History

Family Character

Family identity

Family communication

Emotional life of the family

Family alliances

Promoting development

Nature of attachments

Guidance care and management

Expression and reception of messages

Involvement

Continuity

Expression and reception of feelings

Nature of relationships

Emotional involvement

Atmosphere

Gina Bradshaw is:

- ❑ caring well for Annie who is thriving
- ❑ making over frequent visits to GP with Annie
- ❑ finding Ben's behaviour increasingly difficult to manage

The Health Visitor is concerned about:

- ❑ Ben's aggression towards Annie
- ❑ Gina's hostility towards Ben

Ben has hit his teacher and is aggressive to other children in school

Historical Information:

- ❑ First 9 months poor weight gain and frequent minor accidents as a toddler questioning supervision
- ❑ Aged 2 fractured elbow and dislocated shoulder. Gina reported pulling Ben away from electric stove.

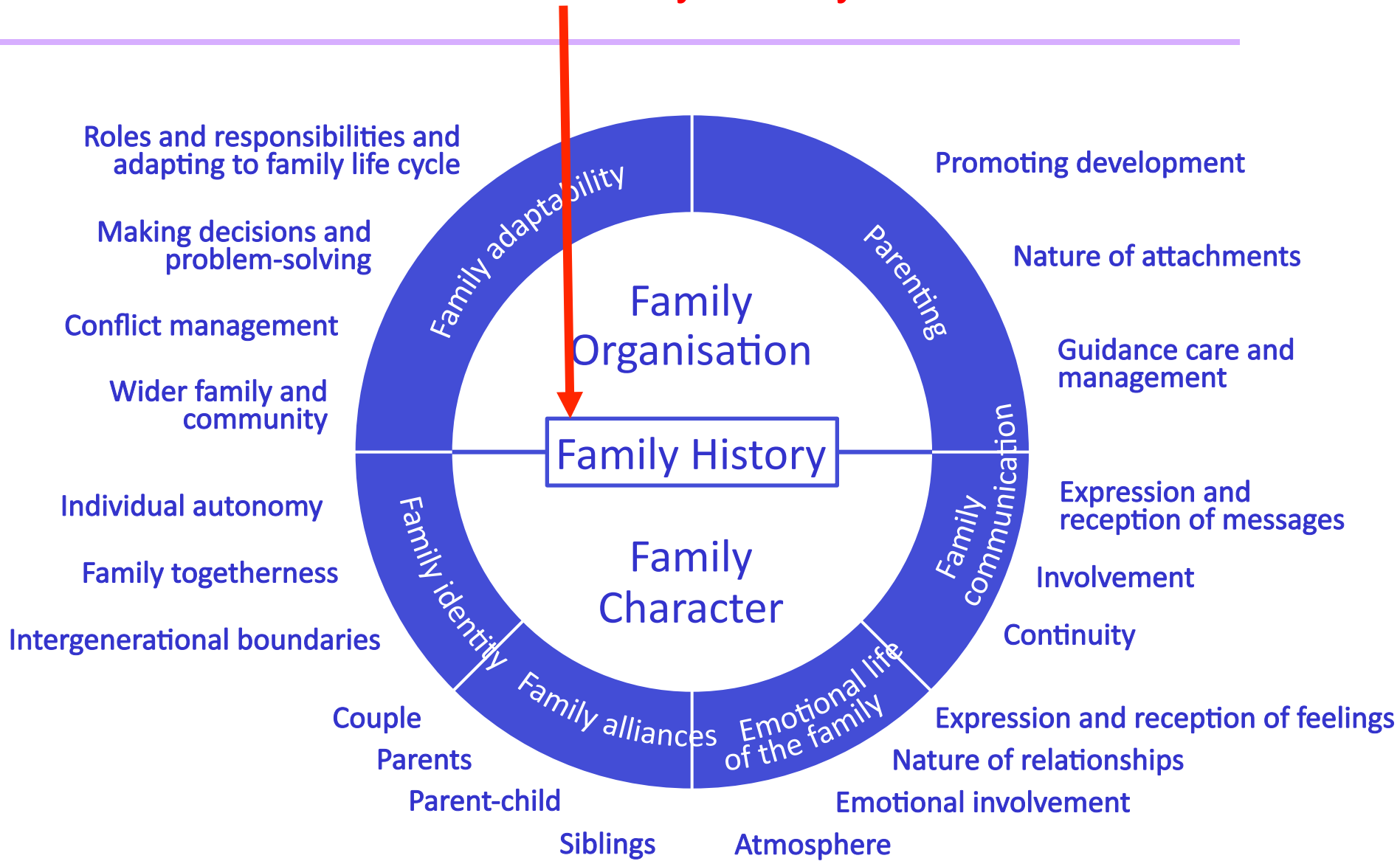# Assessing Family Communication and Emotional Life of the Family

Task 1:

- Watch Training DVD Clips of interviewing for communication and task for emotional life of the family

- Please take notes on what you see and hear

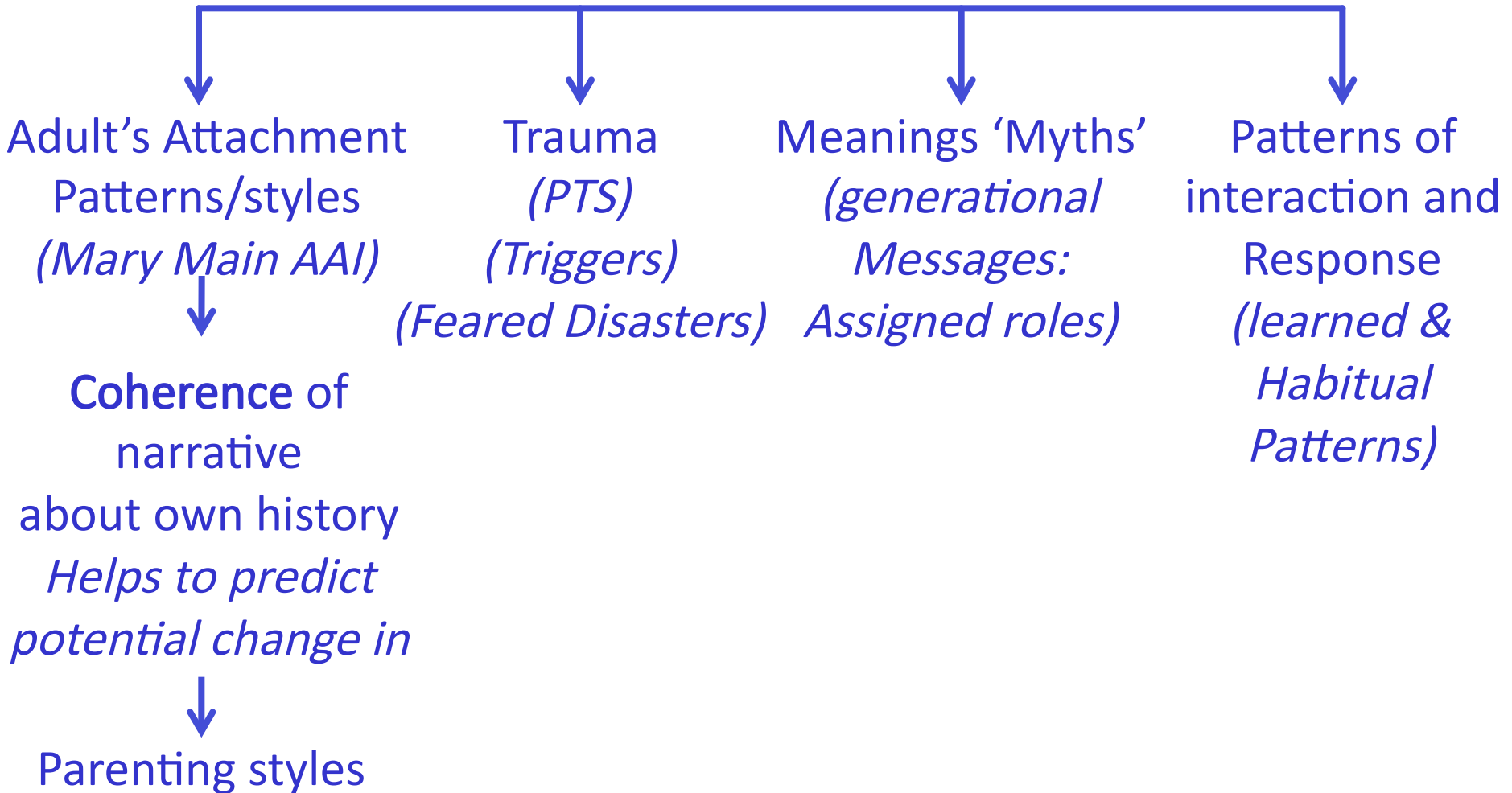# Assessing Family Communication and Emotional Life of the Family

Task 2:

- Having watched the training DVD Clips now turn to the person next to you to:

a) Discuss your notes and what was pertinent and,

b) Make ratings for

- Communication – expression and reception of messages

- Emotional life of the family – atmosphere

- Group feedback

The Family Assessment Model of Family Functioning: Family History

Roles and responsibilities and adapting to family life cycle

Making decisions and problem-solving

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Emotional life of the family

Family History Work- Why?

Adult's Attachment Patterns/styles
(Mary Main AAI)

↓

Coherence of narrative about own history
Helps to predict potential change in

↓

Parenting styles

Trauma
(PTS)
(Triggers)
(Feared Disasters)

Meanings 'Myths'
(generational Messages: Assigned roles)

Patterns of interaction and Response
(learned & Habitual Patterns)

Assessing Family Communication and Emotional Life of the Family

Task 3:

- Watch Training DVD Clips of Family History for Gina

- Please take notes on what you see and hear to use in next session looking at **The Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis Framework (**saaf)

Family History Work- How?

Environment
- Supportive, companionable environment
- Transparency
- Confidentiality
- Times/approaches to be used
- Containment

Content
- Questions – direct & indirect
- Follow up questions
- Paraphrase
- Not interrupting
- Not workers agenda
- Promoting exploration

Attunement
- Pace
- Gesture
- Eye contact
- Tone
- Rhythm
- Pitch
- Silence
- Setting
- Time to reflect & respond
- Closeness/distance
- Interest/energy