

Youth Connections Scale – Scoring Guide

(A) Tools for Youth Connections

	Yes	No
Has a genogram or connectedness map been completed with youth?	1	0
Has a lifebook been created with or for the youth?	1	0

Total= 0-2

(B) Number of Supportive Adult Connections: For each category, please write the total number of meaningful relationships that apply for youth at this time.

“Meaningful relationships” are defined by the youth. This would include adults who have some on-going contact with the youth and is someone who the youth can count on for some type of support.

	Total Number of Adult Relationships for Each Category
1. Mother (birth, adoptive, stepmother)	0-3 (x2)
2. Father (birth, adoptive, stepfather)	0-3 (x2)
3. Adult siblings	0-5
4. Other adult relatives	0-6
5. Current foster parent	0-1
6. Former foster parent	0-2
7. Current or former social worker	0-1
8. Current or former teacher	0-2
9. Current or former therapist, counselor or psychologist	0-2
10. Pastor, rabbi or other spiritual leader	0-1
11. An adult friend, mentor or sponsor	0-4
12. Other adults (Please list relationships):	0-3

Total=0-39

(C) Strength of Youth Connections: Indicate the strength of the relationship between the youth and adult right now.

In categories where there is more than one person, choose the most meaningful relationship and answer about that person. You can list up to two additional adults in the last two rows. **Circle the best response for each row.**

Very Weak: No Contact

Weak: Infrequent contact; Youth can't count on this adult for support

Moderate: Some contact with this adult but may not be consistent; youth feels a connection but can't count on this adult all the time

Strong: Contact at least once per month; Youth feels a connection of the heart, mind or spirit with this person; Youth can usually count on this person

Very Strong: Contact at least once per week; Youth feels a long-term connection of the heart, mind or spirit with this person; Youth can count on this person to be there for them when needed

N/A: Not applicable because adult is deceased or youth has no siblings

	Very Weak	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	N/A
Mother (birth, adoptive, stepmother)	0	1	2	3	4	*
Father (birth, adoptive, stepfather)	0	1	2	3	4	*
Siblings	0	1	2	3	4	*
Other adult relatives	0	1	2	3	4	*
Other caring adult identified by youth:	0	1	2	3	4	*
Other caring adult identified by youth:	0	1	2	3	4	*

Total=0-24

(D) Support Indicators: Answer yes or no for each indicator. These do not have to be from the same adult. Youth has an adult in their life who they will be able to count on for the following support after they leave foster care:

Yes	No	Indicator
1	0	Providing a home to go to for the holidays
1	0	Providing an emergency place to stay
1	0	Providing cash in times of emergency
1	0	Help with job search assistance or career counseling, or providing a reference for youth
1	0	Help with finding an apartment or co-signing a lease
1	0	Help with school (homework, re-enrolling in school, help in applying to colleges)
1	0	Assisting with daily living skills, such as cooking, budgeting, paying bills and housecleaning
1	0	Providing storage space during transition times
1	0	Emotional support – a caring adult to talk to
1	0	Sharing in or supporting experiences of youth’s cultural and spiritual background
1	0	Checking in on youth regularly – to see how they are doing
1	0	Assisting with medical appointments so youth does not have to experience that alone
1	0	Assisting with finding and accessing community resources.
1	0	A home to go for occasional family meals
1	0	Help providing transportation (help with purchasing a car) or figuring out public transportation
1	0	Someone to send care packages at college
1	0	Assisting with purchasing cell phone and service (for example, youth is added to a family plan).
1	0	A place to do laundry
1	0	Supporting youth in civic engagement such as voting and volunteering

Total= 0-19

(E) Level of Youth Connections: Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. Circle the best response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
While in foster care, you have connected or re-connected with relatives or caring adults who will be lifelong supportive connections	0	1	2	3	4
An adult has made a commitment to provide a permanent, parent-like relationship to you	0	1	2	3	4
You are living with an adult who has or plans to adopt them or become their legal guardian	0	1	2	3	4
You feel very disconnected from any caring adults Note: This item is scored differently. This item is a negative statement whereas the other statements are positive; therefore the scoring is reversed. See scoring guide to the right.	0=4	1=3	2=2	3=1	4=0

Total= 0-16

Scoring:

Section	Minimum value	Maximum Value
A: Tools for Connections	0	2
B: Number of Connections	0	39
*Subscale – number of professional connections compared to non-professional		
C: Strength of Connections	0	24
D: Support Indicators	0	19
E: Permanent Connections	0	16
Total Scale Score	0	100

Intpretation of scoring:

<i>Scale Score</i>	<i>Level of Connectedness</i>
80-100	Very High
60-79	High
40-59	Moderate
20-39	Low
0-20	Very Low