

*Youth Observations of
Tiered Foster Care – Child Characteristics document*

Challenges	Opportunities
Focus is on External Behavior, Not Youth’s Needs	Create Tools and Training Focused on Meeting Youth Needs
<p>The Child/Youth Characteristics Domains refer to behaviors and diagnosis.</p> <p>But do not include the needs of the young person such triggers or strategies that have proven helpful.</p> <p>There is no mention of the type of environment that might meet this young person’s needs in terms of emotional/physical safety and well-being and help them to thrive.</p>	<p>Create a detailed: “Level of Support” document, and a way to capture the types of support that are most helpful as well.</p> <p>Invite the OHIO YAB to serve in a similar role to the one they are taking with the OCWTP Life Skills pathway, in which youth have designed badges to reflect foster parent development of expertise and vetted trainings to determine their eligibility for one or more badges.</p> <p>The OHIO YAB would love to help develop a strengths-based, skills-focused training pathway in order to build a team of Subject Matter Experts among the foster parent pool.</p>

Challenges	Opportunities
Concerns About Some of the Wording / Categories	Revisions Recommended By Youth
<p><u>Descriptions of the three Tiers:</u> <i>These children/youth will exhibit moderate /severe/extensive behavioral and psychological issues resulting from abuse, neglect, sexual victimization, multiple separations, and environmental / genetic factors.</i></p>	<p>Youth felt that this wording was impersonal, generalized, stigmatizing and not strengths based.</p> <p>They reiterated their recommendation for a “Level and Types of Support” document that could help identify the precipitating factors (abuse, separations, genetics), triggers and coping skills / strategies that have proven to be helpful.</p>
<p><u>Pages 7-8 refer to:</u> <i>Child/Youth significantly resistant and noncompliant to age-appropriate roles</i></p>	<p>Youth recommended a training on: <i>“The Roots of Parentification and how to Provide Support and Reassurance.”</i></p>
<p><u>Page 8 refers to:</u> <i>Child/Youth deliberately non-compliant including medications</i></p>	<p>Youth were concerned that the only mention of medication was as a Level 3 behavior, when over-medication for foster youth is a known concern.</p>