

Culture

- Shared patterns of perceiving and adapting to the world
- Beliefs, values, attitudes, customs, behaviours, and institutions, and systems
- Influences beliefs, practices and relationships between family members e.g., gender roles
- Influences beliefs, practices and relationships between children and parents
- Influences beliefs and practices, roles and social arrangements for the care and development of children and young people
- Influences beliefs, practices and roles relating to the discipline of children and young people
- Influences beliefs and practices relating to what constitutes abuse and neglect of children
- Influences how families and communities respond when children are in need of protection
- Influences how families' respond to child protection services and workers
- Influences level of congruence or incongruence between families' beliefs and practices regarding the above and expectations that exist in a host country

Pre-departure Experiences / Background

- Long held parenting beliefs and practices
- Experience of child protection laws, beliefs, practices
- Level of state involvement in child protection
- Language(s) spoken
- Family, social, community supports
- Level of education, socio-economic status
- Persecutory regimes, war and conflict
- Trauma inducing experiences

Migration and/or refugee flight

- Loss of family supports, networks and connections
- Loss of stability and identity
- For refugees, forced exile from country of origin
- Extended stays in refugee camp(s) on parents and children
- Possible numerous places of temporary refuge
- Loss of family - separation and/or death
- Rapid changes

CORE SUBJECTS OF ASSESSMENT

- Risk of Harm and Neglect
- Protective and risk factors
- Family strengths and needs
- Parenting practices and capacity
- Social & community supports

Torture and trauma (refugee families)

- Anxiety, perceived loss of control
- Grief, depression, anger
- Loss of trust, loss of identity
- Guilt and shame
- Impact on family functioning and parenting capacity
- Impact on successful resettlement and adjustment
- Possible Post traumatic stress and multiple trauma stress disorder

Settlement

- Culture shock and dislocation
- Rapid change in family roles, relationships
- Absence of traditional family, social and community supports
- Impact of language barriers
- Challenges in accessing basic settlement services
- Experiences of racism and discrimination
- Limited understanding of laws, expectations, systems and agencies relating to parental responsibility and child protection
- Incongruence between held values and practices and those of host country
- Increased personal safety, access to basic necessities, sense of potential for improved future
- Impact of socio-political international and national developments e.g., community attitudes towards refugees and migrants