

MODULE 5
EDUCATION & FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT ENGAGEMENT

MODULE 5

Theme:

Education & Family Engagement

Materials:

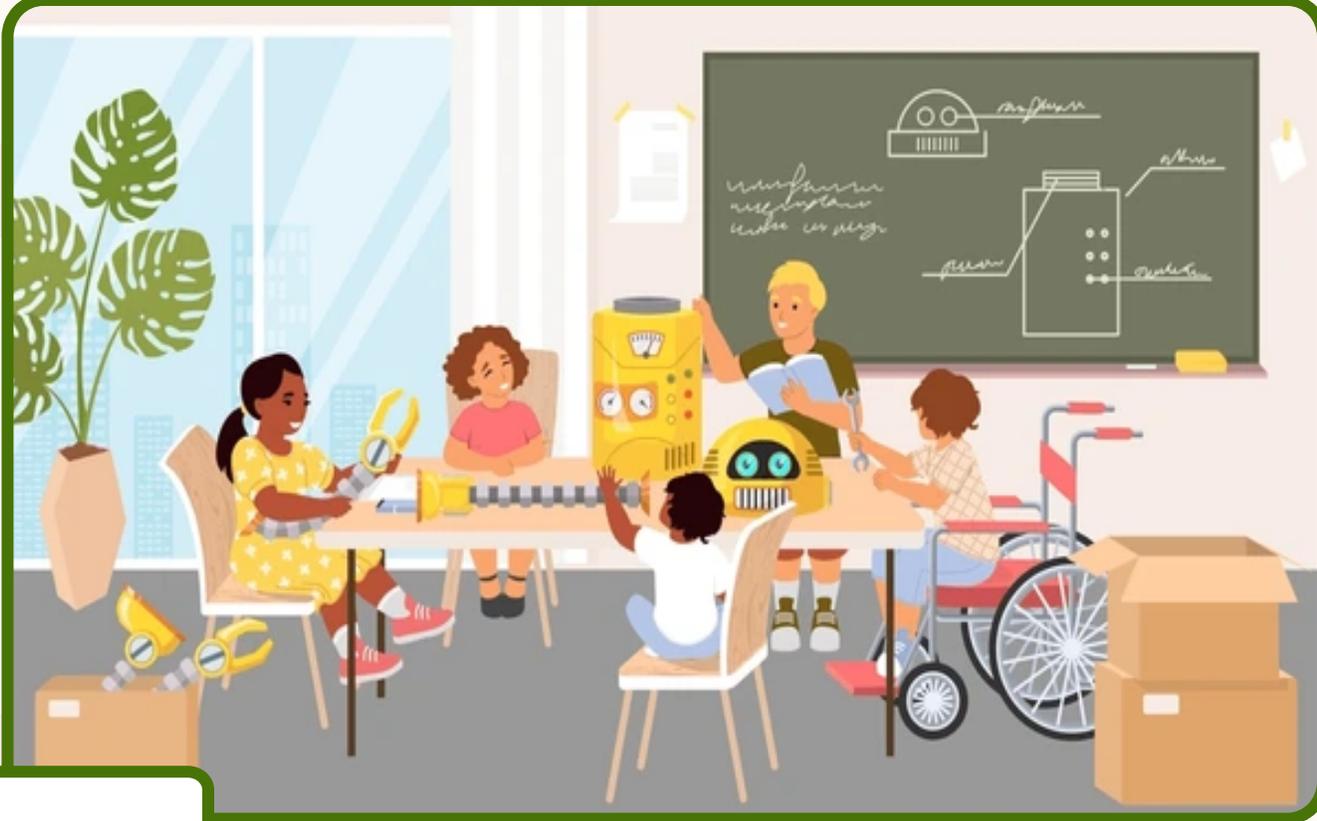
- **Interventionist Workbook**
- **Interventionist Manual**
- Pens/markers



OVERVIEW: MODULE 5

- Check-In
- The American School System: Rights & Responsibilities
- General Conversations
- Performance & Progress
- Report Cards
- Homework
- After School
- Personal Relationships
- Emotional Life
- Bullying & Other Hard Conversations
- Health & Food
- Check-Out

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM



NOTE FOR INTERVENTIONISTS

MODULE 5

- You want to encourage participation in the American school system, give parents the opportunity to learn about education in the US, talk about concerns, and create tools to help children with their educational experience.
- Remember....
 - Take notes in your Workbook.
 - Be respectful of caregivers' discomfort talking about the education system. This may be the first time that parents are asked to talk about schooling.
 - If both a man and woman are in the room, make sure to pay attention to both perspectives.
 - Remind parents that it is important to talk to children about school and attend school events.
 - Remind parents that they have skills to help their children with educational opportunities and to build a good future.
 - Caregivers will have different levels of fluency and education.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM: RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights	Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Your children's' (age 5-21) ability to go to school→ To be an active participant in your child's education→ To know if your child gets into trouble at school and the discipline process→ To seek help for your child if they need it→ To ask for help communicating with the school→ Your child's safety. No one is allowed to hit or verbally abuse them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ School is mandatory for all children under 16 and you must make sure that they go everyday→ Make sure your child has transportation to and from school→ Be actively involved in your child's education (communicating with child, homework is completed, your child behaves in school)→ Make sure your child is clean, fed, and sleeps well→ To understand the school's discipline procedures

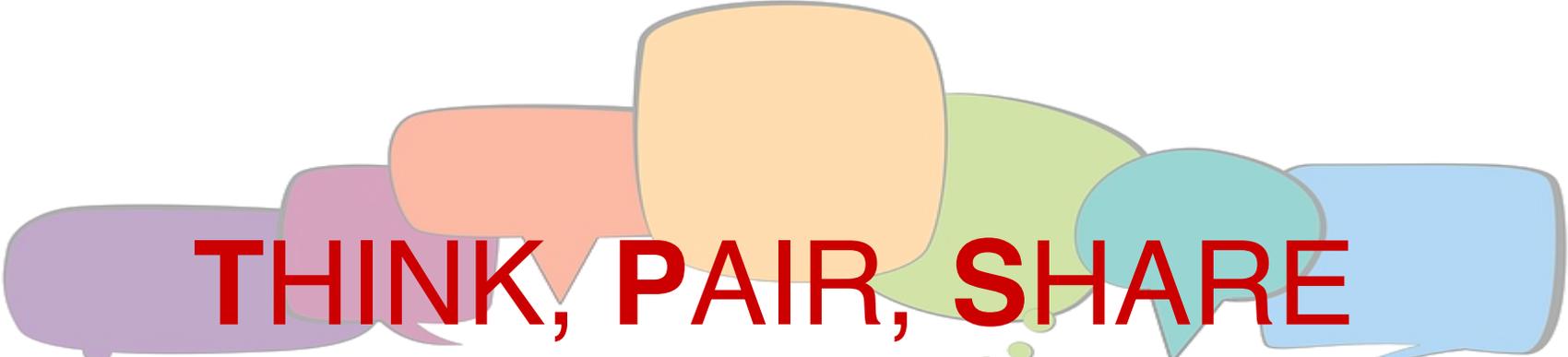
FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION



- What was education like in Afghanistan? How is this similar or different to the U.S. education system?
- What potential challenges or benefits do these similarities and differences create for caregivers and children?

GENERAL CONVERSATIONS





THINK, PAIR, SHARE
GENERAL CONVERSATIONS

What conversations should caregivers be having with their children about their education?

What questions are important to ask?

COMMON DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Before School

- What classes will you have today?
- Are you excited about anything you will be doing in school today?
- Are you worried about anything today?
- What do you hope to learn today?

After School

- What did you do at school today?
- What classes did you go to?
- What was one thing you learned?
- What was your favorite/least favorite part of the day?
- Did you try anything new?



THINK, PAIR, SHARE
GENERAL CONVERSATIONS

If a child is not communicating with their caregiver about school who can the caregiver reach out to? What questions can they ask?

WHEN & WHERE TO GET HELP: DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Teacher

- Do you have any helpful tips about how I can talk to my child about what they are doing in school each day?
- Could you provide me with a syllabus so I can know what is being taught in school so I can inform my conversations with my child?

Community Members

- How do you talk with your children about school?
- Do you have any advice as to how to get my child to share stories about their day with me?

PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS





What are the different ways performance and progress are measured in a child's education? How might these things be affected by the refugee life experience?

PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS

- Grades and performance reports are important but they do not show the student's **progress over time**
- In this section parents will get information on....
 - report cards
 - homework
 - how to have conversations with their child about their progress



What questions can parents use on a daily basis to learn about their child's progress?

DAILY CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What did you learn today?
- Are you finding some things about school easier than you did before?
- What are you excited to learn more about?
- Are there subjects or classes that are difficult?
- Can I do anything to help you with school?





- What questions should caregivers ask children about their report card?
- What questions should they ask teachers?

REPORT CARD DISCUSSION PROMPTS & QUESTIONS

Child

- I hear you received a report card, may I please see it?
- Before we open it, why don't you tell me how you think you did and why?
- Do you think these are the grades you deserve?
- What are you proud of?
- What do you need to work on?

Teacher

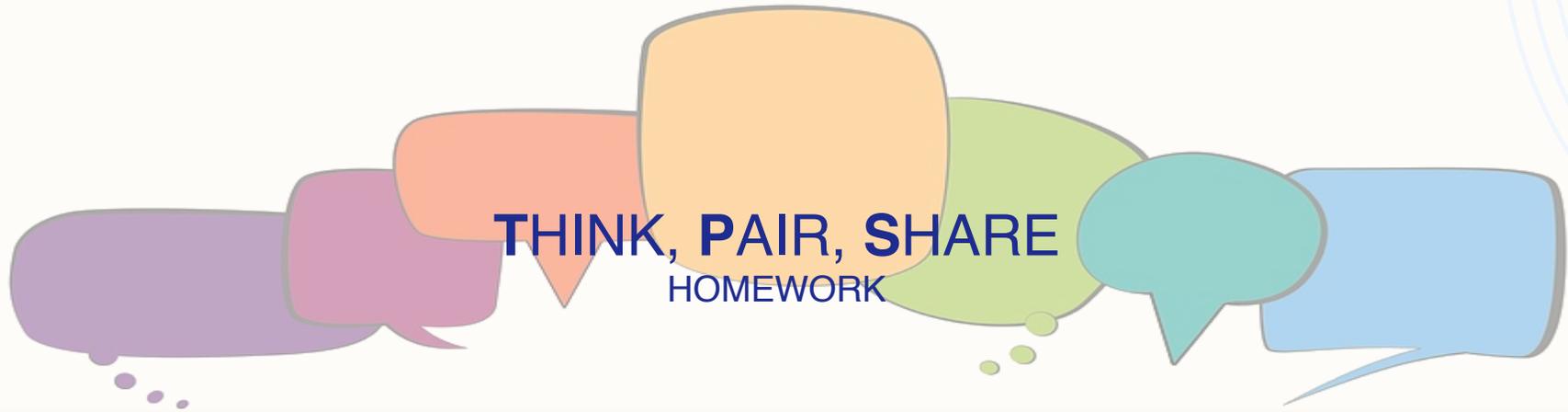
You can ask teachers to find out when they send home report cards and how the child is assessed.

- When will you be sending out report cards?
- Can you explain your grading system?
- How do you determine grades?

When your child is not gradually improving:

- I am concerned about my child's performance. Can you tell me why my child's grades are not improving?
- Could we discuss how we can help my child succeed?
- What do you think I should do to help my child?
- What can you do to help?
- Are extra support services available?

***These conversations should happen several times a year**

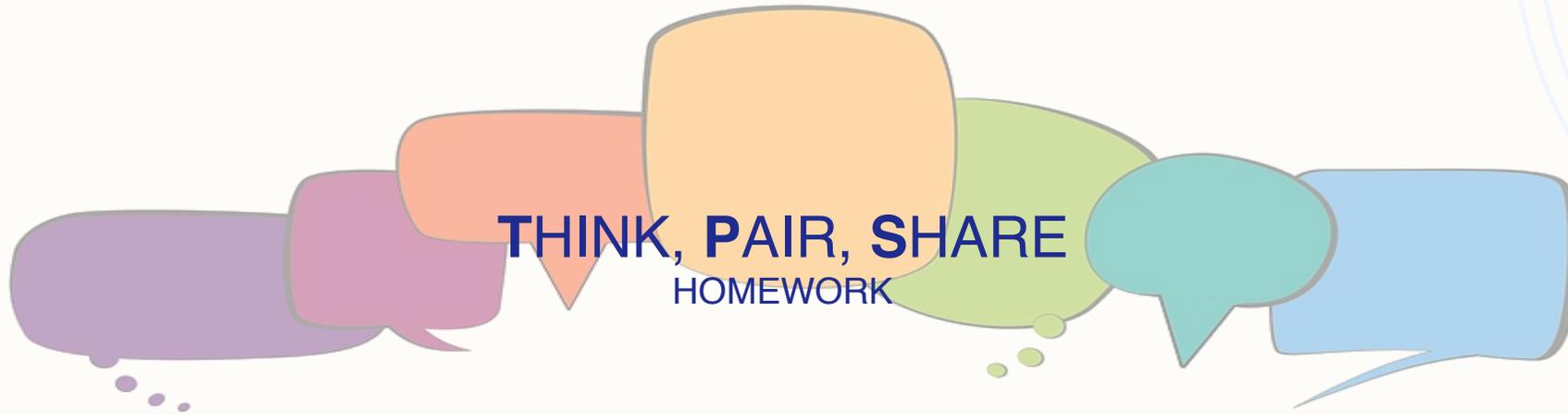


What questions should caregivers ask children about their homework?

HOMWORK DISCUSSIONS WITH CHILDREN

In the morning	After School	Homework is not Completed or Received a Bad Mark
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Do you have all of your homework for today?→ Was there anything in your homework that was difficult?→ What do you need to do to make sure you understand your homework?→ Is there anyone at school that you could ask for help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Do you have homework tonight?→ Can I see your homework for tonight?→ How can I help you?→ How did you do on your last homework?→ Do you understand your homework?→ What part of the homework did you like/not like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Is there a reason you don't want to do your homework?→ Is it because you don't understand the material?→ Do you enjoy the subject?→ Do you need help?→ Who is someone in your class who is really good at this?→ Have you asked them for help?

***These conversations should happen every day**



What can caregivers do if homework is not being understood, or grades are not improving?

HOMework DISCUSSIONS WITH TEACHERS

When your child is not completing assignments

- My child is struggling with his/her homework. It is important to me that they do well. How can we help him or her together?
- Do you think my child understands the material?
- Are there any resources I can use to help my child at home with this material?

When your child's grades are not improving

- I am concerned that my child's grades are not improving, do you have any thoughts on why that may be?
- How often do you send home assignments and when are they due?
- Is my child turning in his/her assignments?
- What is the biggest challenge for my child in your class?
- Is there anything I can do to help my child?
- Is there anything the school can do to help my child?
- Are extra support services available?



AFTER SCHOOL/ EXTRACURRICULARS



What are the benefits of extracurricular activities?

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CONVERSATION PROMPTS

Children

- What do you like to do? Are there any opportunities to do these things after school?
- Are you interested in joining any sports teams or school clubs?
- Have you ever thought about joining the school choir/band/musical/play?
- Do your friends do after school activities?

Teachers

Ask the teacher to give you details about the school's activities:

- What activities are at the school?
- When do they start?
- How much time is this activity?
- Is there transportation?
- Does it cost money? Do you offer scholarships?
- Do you think any of the activities could help my child succeed?

***These conversations should happen at least once a year**

School Administrators, Athletic/Artistic Directors, Social Workers, etc. may also

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS & SOCIAL LIFE





- How can a child's social life and relationships affect their education?
- What questions should caregivers ask?

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS DISCUSSION PROMPTS

About Friends	About Teachers	When Something is Wrong
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Who do you spend time with at school?→ Do you eat lunch with friends?→ How are your friends doing?→ Is there anyone at school you do not like/do not get along with? Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ What are your teachers' names? What do they teach?→ How is your relationship with your teacher?→ Are you learning from your teacher?→ Is he/she respectful?→ Does your teacher help if you do not understand something in class?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ You seem upset, can you tell me what happened at school today?→ Are you having a hard time making friends?→ Why do you think that is?→ Are people at school nice to you? What are they saying or doing and why?

***These conversations should happen every day**



What can caregivers do if there is a problem? Who can they turn to for support?

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS: WHEN & WHERE TO GET HELP

Teachers	Administrators
<p>When your child is having difficulties with their friends ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Have you noticed anything with my child and his/her friends? <p>If your child has a problem, explain your child's situation and ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Is there anything I can do to help my child?→ Is there anything the school can do? <p>If the problem is with the teacher, try talking to him/her directly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Get the teacher's side of the story<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ My child told me about something that happened in class and I want the chance to talk to you about it.◆ Can you tell me what happened in your opinion?→ Establish a relationship and ask:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ How can we work together to improve this situation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Explain your child's concern.→ Explain why you need help→ Explain why you are not comfortable going to the teacher with this issue.→ Ask the administrator: How can we work together to improve this situation?

EMOTIONAL LIFE





How can school affect a child's emotions?

Why is it important for caregivers to talk to their children about their emotions?

EMOTIONAL LIFE CONVERSATION PROMPTS

Children

- You seem upset, did something happen at school today?
- What's bothering you?
- IMPORTANT: Is there anything I can do?
- You seem very excited/ happy today! Tell me about your day.

It helps to match the emotions of your child. When they are calm, you should act calm. When they are happy or excited, you should be happy and excited with them. When they are sad or upset, speak slowly and calmly.

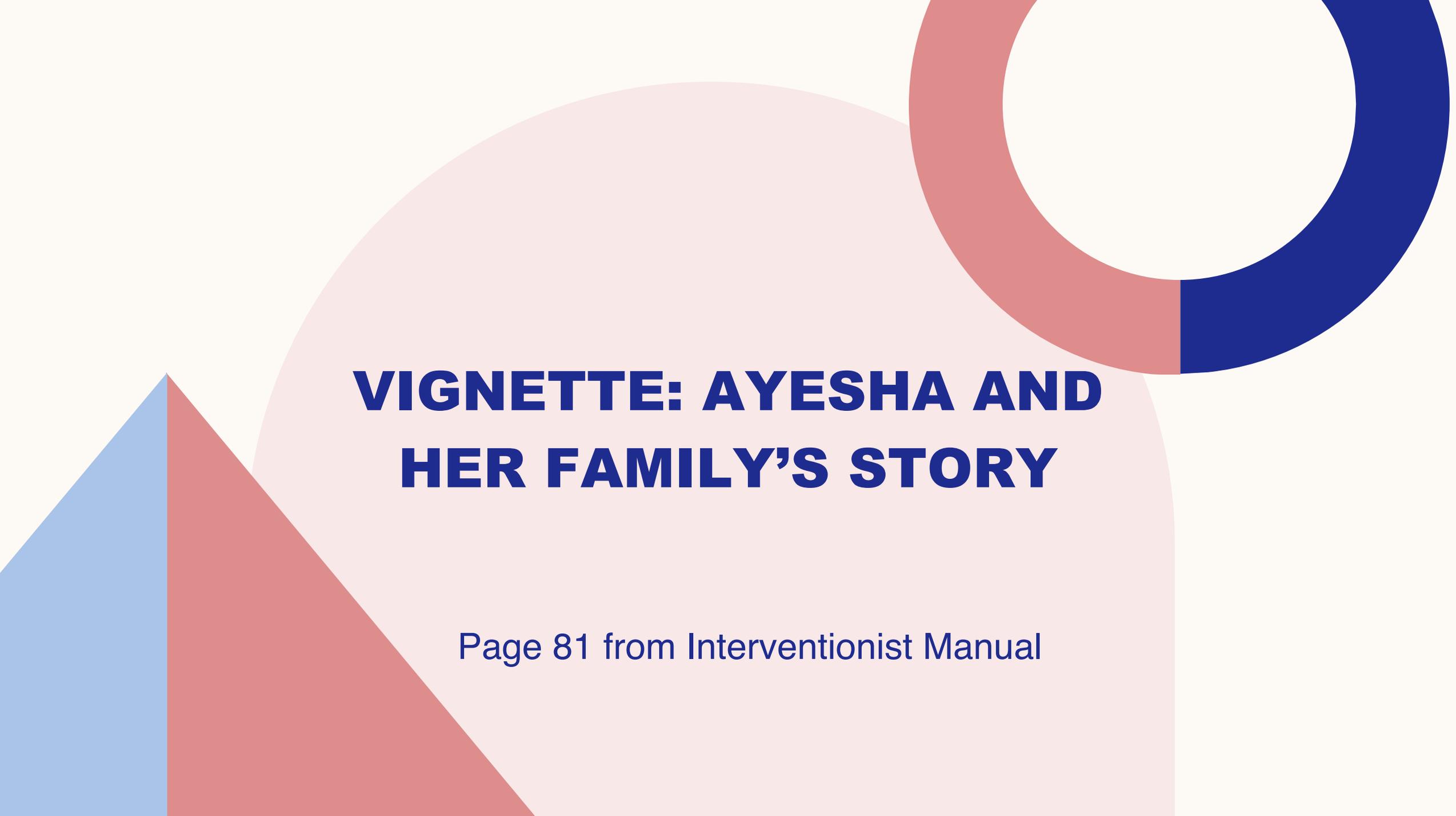
Who to Talk to For Help

- Teacher: You should talk to the teacher first to see if they notice any emotional changes.
- School Counselor, Social Worker, Case Manager: These people may be best to help with emotional changes.

***These conversations should happen whenever your child is sad or upset**

BULLYING & OTHER HARD CONVERSATIONS

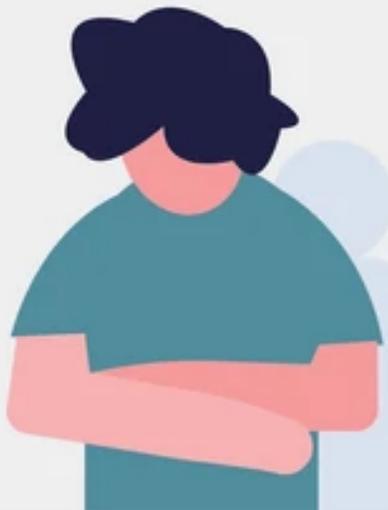




VIGNETTE: AYESHA AND HER FAMILY'S STORY

Page 81 from Interventionist Manual

WHAT IS BULLYING?



WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- **An Imbalance of Power:** Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- **Repetition:** Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.



Besides bullying what other hard conversations may a caregiver need to have with their children? Who can help you have these conversations?

BULLYING & OTHER HARD CONVERSATIONS

Hard Questions Children May Ask

- Am I different from my friends?
- Why am I so different from my friends?
- Why am I in a class with kids who are younger than me?
- Why do people call me a refugee?

Who to Talk to For Help

- Child's Teacher
- School Counselor
- Resettlement Caseworker
- School Principal

HEALTH & FOOD AT SCHOOL





How does a child's health and the food they eat affect their education and performance?

EATING HEALTHY CONVERSATION PROMPTS

- What did you eat for lunch today?
- Did you like it?
- What did other kids eat?
- Why aren't you eating?
- Are you hungry during the day?
- Do they give you snacks?

These conversations should happen every day

NOTE FOR INTERVENTIONISTS

HEALTH & FOOD

- Many children have problems eating in school for many reasons. Parents can talk to other parents for advice about to how to encourage your child to eat.
- Suggested: If your child has dietary restrictions for health or cultural/religious reasons, your child's school might be able to help. It is your responsibility as a parent to ask the administration to see if they can have food prepared for your child

ROLE PLAY

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Role play talking to caregivers about rights & responsibilities
- Offer feedback and reflect



ROLE PLAY HARD CONVERSATIONS

- Role play talking to caregivers about bullying and other hard conversations
- Offer feedback and reflect





Q & A