### Define Adult Concerns Step

**Words**: Initial inquiry (neutral observation)

“The thing is (insert adult concern)….” or “My concern is (insert adult concern)…”

**More Help**

- Maybe the unsolved problem wasn’t free of challenging behavior, wasn’t specific, wasn’t free of adult theories, or was “clumped” (instead of split)
- Maybe you’re using Emergency Plan B (instead of Proactive Plan B)
- Maybe you’re using Plan A

**What You’re Thinking**

“Have I been clear about my concern? Does the child understand what I have said?”

**Don’t**

- Start talking about solutions yet
- Sermonize, judge, lecture, use sarcasm

### Invitation Step

**Words**: Initial inquiry (neutral observation)

Restate the concerns that were identified in the first two steps, usually beginning with “I wonder if there is a way…”

**More Help**

- Stick as closely to the concerns that were identified in the first two steps
- While it’s a good idea to give the kid the first opportunity to propose a solution, generating solutions is a team effort
- It’s a good idea to consider the odds of a given solution actually working...if you think the odds are below 60-70 percent, consider what it is that’s making you skeptical and talk about it
- This step always ends with agreement to return to Plan B if the first solution doesn’t stand the test of time

**What You’re Thinking**

“Have I summarized both concerns accurately? Have we truly considered whether both parties can do what they’ve agreed to? Does the solution truly address the concerns of both parties? What’s my estimate of the odds of this solution working?”

**Don’t**

- Rush through this step either
- Enter this step with preordained solutions
- Sign off on solutions that both parties can’t actually perform
- Sign off on solutions that don’t truly address the concerns of both parties

---

**Empathy Step**

**Words**: Initial inquiry (neutral observation)

“I’ve noticed that...(insert unsolved problem)... what’s up?”

**Drilling for Information**

Usually involves reflective listening and clarifying questions, gathering information related to the who, what, where, and when of the unsolved problem, and asking the kids what they’re thinking in the midst of the unsolved problems and why the problem occurs under some conditions and not others.

**More Help**

- Maybe the kid doesn’t talk or says “I don’t know”. try to figure out why:
  - Maybe the unsolved problem wasn’t free of challenging behavior, wasn’t specific, wasn’t free of adult theories, or was “clumped” (instead of split)
  - Maybe you’re using Emergency Plan B (instead of Proactive Plan B)
  - Maybe you’re using Plan A
- Leave the empathy step before you completely understand the kid’s concern or perception
- Talk about solutions yet

- Maybe he really doesn’t know
- Maybe he needs the problem broken down into its component parts
- Maybe he needs time to think

**What You’re Thinking**

“What don’t I yet understand about the kid’s concern or perspective? What doesn’t make sense to me yet? What do I need to ask to understand it better?”

**Don’t**

- Skip the Empathy step
- Assume you already know what the kid’s concern is and treat the Empathy step as if it is a formality
- Rush through the Empathy step

---

**Plan B Cheat Sheet**

**Empathy Step**

**Words**: Initial inquiry (neutral observation)

“I’ve noticed that...(insert unsolved problem)... what’s up?”

**Drilling for Information**

Usually involves reflective listening and clarifying questions, gathering information related to the who, what, where, and when of the unsolved problem, and asking the kids what they’re thinking in the midst of the unsolved problems and why the problem occurs under some conditions and not others.

**More Help**

- Maybe the kid doesn’t talk or says “I don’t know”. try to figure out why:
  - Maybe the unsolved problem wasn’t free of challenging behavior, wasn’t specific, wasn’t free of adult theories, or was “clumped” (instead of split)
  - Maybe you’re using Emergency Plan B (instead of Proactive Plan B)
  - Maybe you’re using Plan A
- Leave the empathy step before you completely understand the kid’s concern or perception
- Talk about solutions yet

- Maybe he really doesn’t know
- Maybe he needs the problem broken down into its component parts
- Maybe he needs time to think

**What You’re Thinking**

“What don’t I yet understand about the kid’s concern or perspective? What doesn’t make sense to me yet? What do I need to ask to understand it better?”

**Don’t**

- Skip the Empathy step
- Assume you already know what the kid’s concern is and treat the Empathy step as if it is a formality
- Rush through the Empathy step

---

**Define Adult Concerns Step**

**Words**: Initial inquiry (neutral observation)

“The thing is (insert adult concern)….” or “My concern is (insert adult concern)…”

**More Help**

- Most adult concerns fall into one of two categories:
  - How the problem is affecting the kid
  - How the problem is affecting others

**What You’re Thinking**

“Have I been clear about my concern? Does the child understand what I have said?”

**Don’t**

- Start talking about solutions yet
- Sermonize, judge, lecture, use sarcasm

---

**Invitation Step**

**Words**: Initial inquiry (neutral observation)

Restate the concerns that were identified in the first two steps, usually beginning with “I wonder if there is a way…”

**More Help**

- Stick as closely to the concerns that were identified in the first two steps
- While it’s a good idea to give the kid the first opportunity to propose a solution, generating solutions is a team effort
- It’s a good idea to consider the odds of a given solution actually working...if you think the odds are below 60-70 percent, consider what it is that’s making you skeptical and talk about it
- This step always ends with agreement to return to Plan B if the first solution doesn’t stand the test of time

**What You’re Thinking**

“Have I summarized both concerns accurately? Have we truly considered whether both parties can do what they’ve agreed to? Does the solution truly address the concerns of both parties? What’s my estimate of the odds of this solution working?”

**Don’t**

- Rush through this step either
- Enter this step with preordained solutions
- Sign off on solutions that both parties can’t actually perform
- Sign off on solutions that don’t truly address the concerns of both parties

---

**REV 060417 livesinthebalance.org**