

## Did You Know?

A **target child** must be selected when making a referral to a Family Preservation Program.

The term **target child** is used to identify the child in most need of an intervention. This term is separate to a Family First candidate or non-candidate. Not all children within a case will be identified as a **target child**, but they may still benefit from services. This term helps prevention providers identify which child is in greatest need of services, and how to target the child programmatically.

When making a referral for Family Preservation services, the SSW should consult with the FSOS to identify the target child(ren) by determining:

- A. For intensive services-the child(ren) at most imminent risk for removal;
- B. For reunification services-the child(ren) reunifying into the home;
- C. The child(ren) at imminent risk of removal, who is above 5 years of age and needs a large clinical focus due to behavioral needs; or
- D. The child(ren) at moderate risk of removal from their home.

For example, if a child is returning to the familial home from out-of-home care, a referral for family reunification services should be made. If there are children already in the home, they may benefit from the services. However, only the child transitioning home would be identified as the **target child**.

Another example could include an older youth who is presenting with behavioral needs, and a diversion referral is made. Other children that are in the home may benefit from services; however, the **target child** is the youth with behavioral needs.

Visit [SOP 6.1 Family Preservation Program \(FPP\)](#) for additional information.

For consultation on Family Preservation Program referrals please contact:

Jennifer Thornhill, Prevention Branch Manager

[Jennifer.Thornhill@ky.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Thornhill@ky.gov)

502-564-7635 x3592

or

Charity Roberts, FPP Specialist

[Charity.Roberts@ky.gov](mailto:Charity.Roberts@ky.gov)

502-564-4502 EXT 3596

