

CANS Acculturation Notes & observations on the conversation

Arkansas Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths

Action Levels for Ratings

0	No evidence of a Need; may be a strength	2	Action
1	Watchful waiting/prevention	3	Immediate action; dangerous or disabling

Conversation Starters

These questions are suggestions. You do not have to use them all and you are not limited to these examples. These are just ideas to get you thinking. No work aid can take the place of your professional judgment.

- I notice that English is/was not your family's first language. How did that impact you and your family?
- I know that you use ASL (American Sign Language). How has your hearing impacted your relationships and communication? Who in your family and friends signs?
- What would you say is your culture? Has it ever caused problems for you and if so, how?
- How well does your caregiver/do your friends understand your culture?
- Tell me about rituals and celebrations that were important in your family? Are you able to celebrate these now? Is this something you look forward to sharing with your children?
- When people come from different cultures, sometimes it is difficult to understand each other. Are you having any trouble in your current living situation that you think is because your caregiver doesn't understand your beliefs and practices? (This can also be a question for adults.)
- Are there things that you did in (country or culture) that are misunderstood here? Tell me about that.

Language, Identity, Ritual, Cultural Stress

Observations & Next Steps

