Eco-Map Instructions & Discussion Questions

1. In the big circle describe each member of the immediate family - squares to show males and circles to show females. Put each caregiver name and age in the center of the square or circle.
2. Identify the quality of the relationship between the family members through the use of lines:

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| http://www.strongbonds.jss.org.au/img/ecomap-solid.gif | a solid or thick line represents an important, strong or positive connection |
| http://www.strongbonds.jss.org.au/img/ecomap-dashed.gif | a broken line represents a tenuous or weak connection |
| http://www.strongbonds.jss.org.au/img/ecomap-crosslines.gif | lines with crosses through them indicate a stressful relationship |
| http://www.strongbonds.jss.org.au/img/ecomap-arrow.gif | arrows along the line point towards the direction or flow of resources, energy or interest. |

1. Next identify any significant extended family relationships or important friendships and the quality of these relationships currently using the lines outlined above.
2. Next identify the social and environmental systems which impact on the family. For example, their links to school, work, church, welfare support agency, child protection services, youth justice, department of corrections etc. Then draw a line to represent the quality of the relationship between the family member and the environmental system that has been identified as above.
3. Connections can be drawn to the family circle as a whole or to one individual in the family if there is one person involved with that system. This helps to show the differing levels of connectedness to the external world amongst family members. **Put phone numbers/addresses of family members next to their name.**
4. Always put a date on your eco-map.
5. How would you describe your relationships identified on your Eco-Map?
6. How will the relationships that provide you positive energy support your decision to provide kinship care?
7. How will the relationships that are stressed be affected by your decision to provide kinship care?
8. Describe how adding an additional child to your household affect those currently living with you? Specifically, regarding shared living spaces, your time and resources you have available to you.
9. Describe how those close to you will react to your family providing kinship care?
10. In looking at your own Eco-Map describe some of the potential problems you foresee and resources and/or supports you have or could develop to manage these potential problems?
11. After identifying the child’s Eco-Map how does it fit with yours?
12. List supports or resources identified that will need to be addressed in the Kinship Care Plan