

## Questions to Ask When Developing an Ecomap with a Family

A child welfare worker can identify important aspects of the family's environment by asking each family member about the various systems with which they interact. For example:

- 1. How would you describe your involvement with:**
  - Health care?
  - Extended family?
  - Recreation?
  - Education (School)?
  - Church (Religion)?
  - Work?
  - Friends (And so on)?
  
- 2. What kinds of resources and supports are available to you?**
  
- 3. What kinds of additional resources and supports do you think you need?**

**The purpose of using an ecomap is to:**

- Foster your relationship as a helper
- Afford the client an opportunity to come up with his or her own solutions
- To diffuse some defensiveness about why you make certain referrals for them
- To be used as a visual tool when redrawn to evaluate progress.
- To stimulate creative solutions simply because it is a picture of current issues versus some abstract thought.