

Strengths Summary

Student/family name: Nina R.		Facilitator name: Sharon	Date: 10/13/10
Team goal: (When will the team's work be completed?)	The family will have a network of support that helps them get through tough times.		
Family vision: (What are the family's goals for the future?)	Jack and Nina want to feel more connected to one another. They want to know they can count on each other to weather the tough times ahead. They share hope for a brighter future.		
Family story: (What is the reframed story of the family's experience, influenced by an understanding of their past, their preferences and their culture?)			
<p>Nina is a 13 year old 7th grader. She loves to read and explains that she got her love of books from her mom, who is now deceased. Nina is bright and well liked by her teacher and other school staff. In addition to reading, Nina also likes to write. She values her privacy and is comfortable spending time alone. She protects herself well and is careful choosing friends. Nina also likes to surf the internet and listen to music. Sometimes, when she's alone and sad, she makes cuts on her forearms.</p> <p>Nina lives with her dad, Jack, who has taught her a lot about working hard and surviving tough times. Jack's been able to keep his family afloat despite being unemployed for the last 1.5 years. Nina and Jack both say their lives changed dramatically when they lost Nina's mother in an accident three years ago. Jack says that he did a pretty good job caring for Nina for a while after her mother died. He said he worked hard to "fill the void that her mom left" but says it was difficult for him to meet all Nina's needs. Jack says he bought Nina things and took her on fun outings to help her feel better. Since losing his job that has changed and now Jack struggles to show Nina that he loves her. Jack says that eventually he and Nina stopped relying on each other for support and that over time, they drifted apart.</p> <p>The family has worked to recover from their loss mostly on their own. Jack says he grew up out east in a family that wasn't very tight knit. Jack and his brother were "seen and not heard" in his family home and Jack says he learned how to parent by watching his dad. Nina says she hasn't kept in touch with any family on her mother's side, but that she has an aunt (Nancy) she thinks about often.</p> <p>Nina struggles at school because she feels out of place and has few close friends. Nina also says, and Jack agrees, that her dad is drinking more in the last couple years, and that makes her feel sad and sometimes unsafe. Neither Jack nor Nina are happy with the way their relationship is now. Jack says he'd like to spend more time together and get back to how things used to be with Nina but he isn't sure how to reach out to her.</p>			

Strengths:

(What are the assets the student, family and team bring to the table? What has worked in the past?)

- **Nina and her father are both tough and strong. They've survived loss and economic challenges and have hope for a brighter future.**
- **Nina has a variety of interests that help her manage her stress. Reading, in particular, helps Nina "escape" her everyday worries.**
- **Nina has an aunt in LA she'd like to reconnect with.**
- **Jack makes his daughter a priority in his life. He and Nina know how to have fun together and are eager to spend more time connecting.**
- **Ms. Jones is a creative person. She also has access to resources that might help Nina make friends and feel more comfortable in school.**
- **Ms. Powell likes Nina very much and is eager to do what she can to help the family.**

Needs:

(What is the function of the behavior the student/family would like to change?)

- **Nina needs to know that her life can be different.**
- **Nina needs to know it's ok to grieve the loss of her mother.**
- **Nina needs to be accepted for who she is.**
- **Nina needs to feel safe at home and at school.**
- **Nina needs to see that making friends is not so scary.**
- **Jack and the team need to know that Nina is safe.**

Updates:

(On which dates has Summary been reviewed and edited?)