**Will My Children Attend The Family Team Meeting?**

* Since children care about what happens to their family, they are usually involved in some way.
* Children have important things to say about what they want to see happen.
* Many times older children come to the whole meeting. Some come for a short time and some don’t even come at all.
* You and your facilitator will

decide how your children will participate in the family team meeting process.

**What If I Have Questions?**

* Call or email your Family Team Meeting Facilitator
* Call or email the Family Team Meeting Coordinator

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Family Team Meetings

Indianola DCAT Cluster

P.O. Box 729 - Indianola, IA 50125

Serving:

Madison, Marion & Warren Counties

Phone: 515-468-1684

FAX: 515-564-4097

Email: madams@dhs.state.ia.us

 **Family**

 **Team**

 **Meetings**

![MPj04286430000[1]]()

**Serving:**

**Madison, Marion**

**And Warren Counties**

Family Team Meeting

**What is a Family Team Meeting?**

* A way for the family to work together with a team to make plans and decisions to help their family succeed.
* At the meeting, the team talks about the family’s strengths and goals. Next, they brainstorm to come up with a plan that provides for the safety and well being of the children in the family.

**Who Comes to the Meeting?**

* Family
* Other relatives
* Friends
* Church friends
* Others in your community
* DHS caseworkers
* Service providers
* Lawyers
* Basically anyone you think would be good on your team.

**What Happens Before the Meeting?**

You and your facilitator will:

* Meet with your family to

explain what a meeting is like.

* Decide what you would like to see happen as a result of a Family Team Meeting.
* Start to list strengths that your family has that can be used to make things better.
* Decide what the main concern and purpose of the meeting will be.
* Decide if you want to share your family story.
* Make a list of people you want to invite to the meeting.
* Decide on a time and place where you will feel comfortable having the meeting.
* Think about creative ways to solve any problems in getting everyone together (for example, finding a ride to the meeting or finding child care).

**What Happens at a Meeting?**

* ![MPj04074590000[1]]()Everyone is introduced to each other.
* The facilitator

explains the purpose of the meeting.

* If you want to, you and your family can tell your family’s story so that everyone knows the same information.
* The team will talk about your family strengths and what is needed to make things better for your family.
* The team brainstorms on what to do
* Finally a family plan is made.
* The meeting should take between 1 to 2 hours depending on what needs to be accomplished.