



**Family Law Disputes About 0-4 Year Old Children  
Ten Reflections About the Child**

**What do we know about this child and his/her circumstances?**

1. Age & stage: Pre-verbal? Development/health? Temperament?
2. History of being cared for by each parent and others. Recent routines?
3. Child's response to routine separations: any distress/ withdrawal?
4. What has been observed in the child at and after change-over times?
5. Does this child seek comfort from each parent when stressed?
6. How responsive to this child is each parent?
7. How does each parent use their time with this child?
8. How does the parents' conflict impact this child?
9. What other relationships provide security for this child?
10. How many people look after this child each week? Too many?

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Ten Reflections About the Parenting Plans/Orders**

**Will these plans/orders be developmentally supportive?**

1. Under these plans/orders, how am I asking this child to live?
2. Can these parents make these plans/orders work well for this child?
3. How will we know if these plans/ orders work for this child?
4. Can these plans/orders grow with this child? When & how to review?

**Do the plans/orders**

5. Reduce stress in this child's life?
6. Ensure this child's physical safety?
7. Maximize this child's emotional security?
8. Maximize responsive, stable care-giving?

**Are the plans/orders**

9. Stage appropriate & child centred?
10. Practical  
(times, locations, travel, exchange venues)?

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