

LEND Eco-mapping Assignment

Introducing...Your Mentor Family!

In this class session, we will get to “meet” each other’s mentor families by sharing a brief summary about your host family with the class by using an eco-map (template on page 2). Talk about your mentor family’s background and family system. Eco-maps will give us a sense of how individuals and their families are impacted by the environments that surround them.

The eco-map is a visual tool designed to organize and clarify information about the transactional relationships between the individual/family and their environment at a specific point in time.

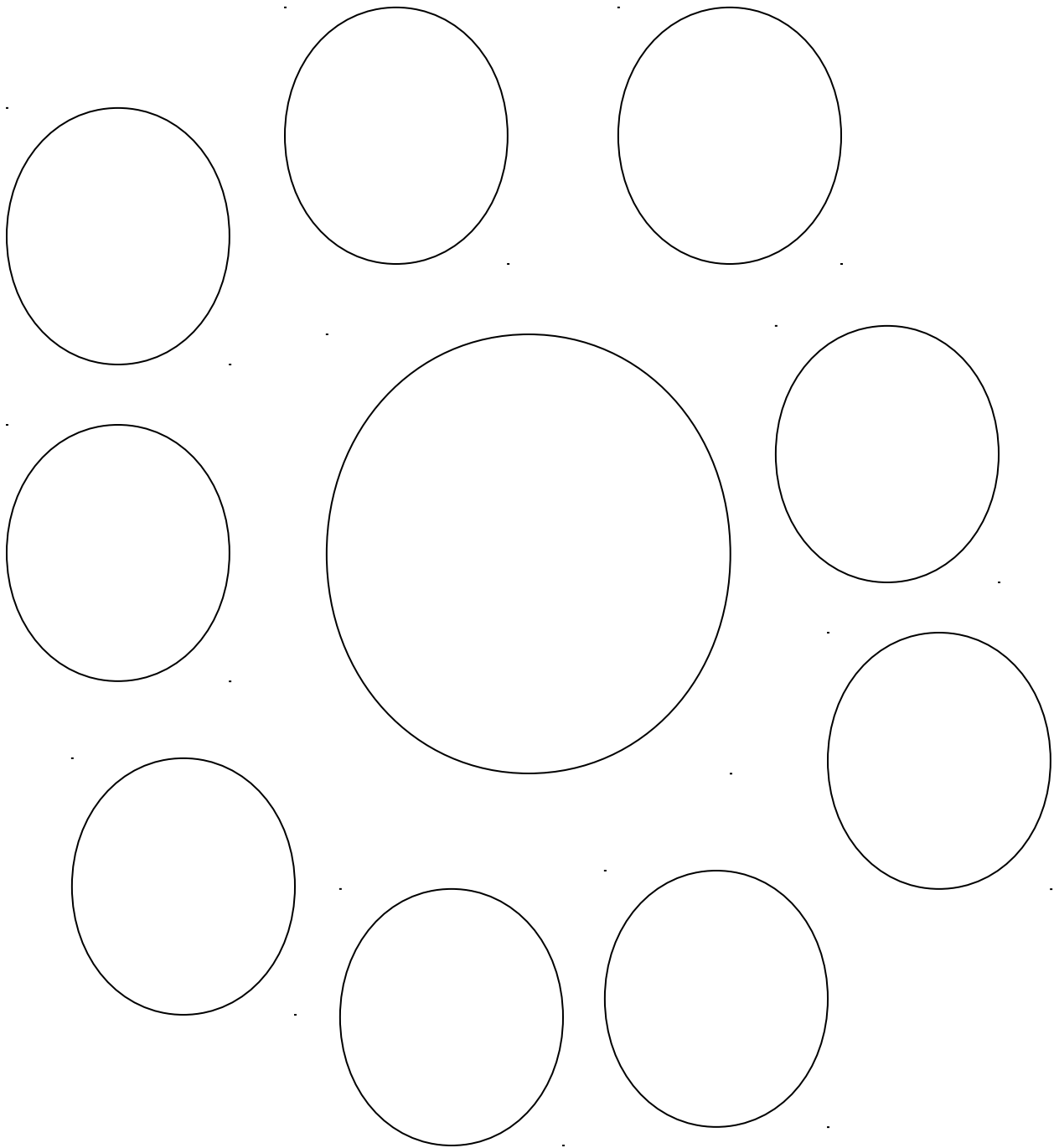
Ideally, the eco-map should be constructed with the person or family to assess resources and supports, as well as stresses in the family’s interactions with their environment. It can be used in a broad range of practice settings with individuals and families. It is particularly helpful to identify strengths, needs, and service gaps, as it helps to better understand the nature of the family’s relationships with individuals, groups, organizations, and the community.

Note: For the purpose of this assignment, please change the names, places of employment, name of agency and any other information that may link the eco-map to the family.

Special attention should be given to the following:

- Social supports (family, friends, support groups, neighbors, religious organizations, etc.)
- Community resources (health and dental care, housing assistance, daycare, financial assistance, mental health services, legal & advocacy assistance, transportation, employment, etc.)
- Stressors (legal difficulties, family dynamics, financial problems, health issues, housing instability, daycare access, transportation, domestic issues, employment obstacles, parenting, discrimination, etc.)

There are a number of ways to complete an eco-map. The template on the next page can be used, or others may be found by doing a Google search. The articles provided can also be used to assist you if you wish to learn more about this topic.



Eco-map Key:

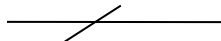
Important, strong or positive



Tenuous or weak



Stressful



Direction or flow of resources, energy or interest

