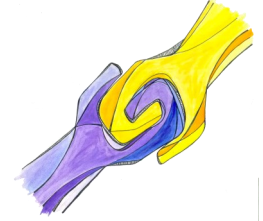


Interpersonal Strengths

Language guidance for interviewing youth about interpersonal strengths and relationships.



General principles: Try to choose words that can be correctly pronounced phonetically (example “count on me” versus “rely,” avoid words with irregular conjugations, and be aware that many youth will interpret terms more concretely than intended. Also, words used in school settings are well understood, even if relatively complex (for example, “confiscate”).

EASY TERMS (OK for most youth age 10+)	MIXED TERMS (May be understood, especially by older youth)	HARD TERMS (Avoid or further define & add context)
Family, mother, father, brother, sister, grandmother, cousin, etc.	“Other adults” (this broad category may mean different things to different people) “Other relatives”	Sibling Spouse
Girlfriend/boyfriend Date/dating (less commonly used by youth themselves, but still well understood)	Partner (to refer to boyfriend or girlfriend of youth or parent)	
Sport Team School	Club	Organization “Team sport” “Individual sport”
Help Advice	Stick by your side	Assist/assistance Pitched in
Care/cared	Appreciate/appreciated (well understood but might be hard to read)	Expectation/meet expectations
Teach	Taught	
Let down Count on me	Stand by you (can be interpreted literally)	Depend Rely
Forgive		Benefit of the doubt
Pride/proud		
Treated fairly		
Belong Fit in		
Listen		
Mistake		
Respect, Respectful		
Confident/Self-confidence	Stand up for yourself	Assertive
	Gang (age & urbanicity affect whether this means organization (ex., Crips) or just a group of kids)	