# Ecomap Guidance

Like a Genogram, an Ecomap is a visual representation of a family. However, instead of just relatives, an ecomap depicts all social and personal relationships and how important these are to the family/child. This is a good way to learn about a family and to understand their support network. Completing an ecomap activity with a family can also help us understand which relationships are difficult for families and where any gaps in support may be.

Usually the child or family is in the centre of the page and circles are drawn to represent the systems around the family – these can be personal or professional relationships. Lines are drawn to identify the status of the relationships, for example if this is strong or weak.

Example of an Eco map. 

Spider graph with parents and children at the centre and all the connected people in their own circle around the immediate family.  They are connected to the family with different colour lines indicating a strong, weak, stressful or broken relationship. Strong lines are bold green. Weak lines are blue and dotted. Stressful lines are bold red. Broken lines are bold purple. 

**Examples of connections:**

Extended family Friends Neighbours Work

School Nursery

Health professionals Voluntary organisations Faith community Sports clubs Hobbies/interests Community groups Social Worker Probation

Support services eg substance misuse, mental health Counsellor/therapist