

Child Development

Background Notes

Child development is effected by environment, trauma, genetics and a variety of other factors. Children who are recipients of child welfare services may have developmental levels outside the norm for children their age. Especially when placing children in substitute care, knowledge about what is normal for a particular age, interventions to assist in improving a specific child's development and resources available to assist with a child's development are important tools to maximize success for the child. During the time the child is placed in substitute care the agency and specifically the worker is responsible for the well being of the child including facilitating the developmental growth of the child.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Review an Early Intervention or extensive child development assessment such as a Child Development Resource Center evaluation. What do you see to be the effect of the child's trauma on his/her development? What are the recommendations the report makes for improving the child's development?
- What services is the agency or the child's school offering or arranging to deal with any developmental lags?
- Observe a coworker interacting with a child on an initial assessment. How do they determine if the child is at age level?

Discoveries:

Child Development continued...

Tasks / Assignments:

- Check with a coworker regarding what resources your office uses to assist with child development concerns. Ask a coworker to show you an Individualized Educational Plan and attend an IEP meeting. Find out what is required for a caseworker to obtain an evaluation for special education services.
- Complete a child development assessment using the "Physical Development Guidelines" and the "Developmental Milestones" in the Appendix. Is the child at age level developmentally? If not, what might be the reason?
- Check in the Learning Center for NetLinks on Child Development, Trauma and other topics. These NetLinks are offered on a regular basis.

Discoveries:

