

Matching Children with Families

Background Notes

An important part of casework is understanding the work that has been done previously on the case and what remains to be completed. One part of gaining this understanding is to completely read your case file. Talking to the previous worker is best practice and fills in the areas that the written documentation may not have completely explained. Correct placement of documentation in the file is important to many of the legal aspects of the work of the child welfare system.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask your supervisor for a Child Summary, 421 to review. Make a list of the child specific needs you identify from your reading. After you have read through the 421 answer the following questions:
 - What were the original concerns?
 - What type of family would be a good match for this child?
 - What are some qualities that a family who will be successful with this child should have?
 - What behaviors does this child have that might be challenging?
 - What kind of training or experience would be important in caring for this child?
- Now ask your supervisor for a potential adoptive family study to read. Use the Home Study Review form in the appendix to record what you learn about the strengths and qualities of the family. How would this family succeed with the child from your 421? Discuss your assessment of the match with your supervisor.

Discoveries:

What is the process for writing a thorough child summary?

What is the process for completing an adoption home study?

