

Ongoing Contact with Children & Families

Background Notes

Children depend on their caseworker to ensure they have their safety, permanency and well being needs met while in substitute care as well as when placed under the agency's supervision in the care of their biological parents. Visiting a child and their providers is key to ensuring children are being well cared for. Purposeful visits improve the quality of the interaction during the limited time the worker has available. Preparation for visiting children, their birth parents or substitute care providers is most successful when there is a plan for areas to discuss during the contact.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Observe a child being interviewed by a worker selected by your supervisor. List what the worker did that you saw as successful. What would you incorporate in your interviewing style and what might you not include?
- Visit a child in a foster home placement and use the materials from the course to assist you in the visit by developing a list of questions, sharing the questions with the child and provider and using the tools to assist in the assessment phase of the interview. Determine if the child is on target developmentally, what medical, educational and mental health needs the child might still need to have resolved.

Discoveries:

