

Transitioning Children

Background Notes

Moving children into substitute care from their birth family can be a very traumatic experience for children. In addition once the child enters the child welfare system they may experience multiple moves in foster care and possibly a move to a permanent family. Minimizing the trauma for a child in transition is a key task of the child welfare worker.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Talk with your supervisor or a co-worker about the effect of multiple moves on children in the child welfare system.
- What recommendations do they have for minimizing the number of moves and the trauma caused when moves do occur?
- Ask your supervisor to connect you with a coworker who is planning to transition a child home and meet with the worker to discuss how the transition plan is developed and participate in the transition plan process.
- Read the handouts Reunification Planning, Stages of Transition and Preparing Children to Return Home and discuss with your supervisor.
- What are the common grief reactions experienced in transitions?

Discoveries:

- *What did you learn that you will use immediately in your work?*
- *What can you share with foster parents to help smooth transitions?*
- *Identify common grief reactions in children who are separated from parents.*

