

Visitation

Background Notes

Visitation is by far the most significant service Child Welfare can provide for families and children. It has been shown that the quantity and quality of visitation has a strong correlation in determining if and when a child will return home. If a child has frequent and positive interaction with their parent during visitation, there is a greater likelihood that a child will be successfully transitioned home. If a parent is not having frequent contact with their child through visitation and/or the quality of the interaction is poor, there is a greater likelihood that the child will not return home. The majority of the children we work with grieve when they have been separated from their families and the children look forward to visits with their parents and siblings. It is our responsibility as caseworkers to create an environment, which promotes a positive visiting experience for the children. Visitation is one of the ideal times to help a parent enhance their parenting skills.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Read the article on Parent-Child Visits @ http://www.practicenotes.org/vol5_no4.htm
- Read the policy regarding the [Visits and Other Types of Child and Family Contact](#) under [Policy I-E3.5](#)
- How do you determine if the visit needs to be supervised? How do you determine the level of supervision? How do you determine where the visit should take place?
- Talk with your Supervisor or a co-worker and arrange to observe a visit with a trained Social Service Assistant (SSA). How does the SSA document the visit? What kinds of things do they pay attention to? Is there a written visitation plan for the family? Does the SSA provide feedback to the parent regarding his/her observations?

Discoveries:

- How soon after a child is placed in care, must an individualized child-family contact plan be developed? What are the specific things that the plan must include?

