

Incorporating Interactional Helping Skills into Placement Practice

Planning for a Conversation

Directions: Work with a partner to fill out the chart below. Together, review each situation. Explore the things that you and the person you speak with might be thinking or feeling about the situation. Review **Handout #9 (Interactional Helping Skills in Child Welfare)**. While several of the skills may apply, focus on and select one that may be especially useful when working through this particular issue. Brainstorm with your partner ways in which to formulate a question(s), statements and/or comments that employ this skill. Your response should take into account the person’s feelings and result in the person’s likely ongoing engagement in the placement process.

| Situation | My feeling (s) (Tuning Into Self) | Parent/Resource parent’s possible attitude/reaction(s)/feeling(s) (Tuning Into Others) | One Key Interactional Helping Skill | Possible approach (What to say/ask) |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1. After explaining the reasons why you must place her son in out-of-home care, you would like the parent to help explain to her five year old son why he is being placed and to help him pack some belongings. | | | | |
| 2. The father is upset because the aunt who will be caring for his daughter has no kids of her own and has always criticized how he took care of his kids. | | | | |
| 3. The mother demands to be told exactly when she will be able to visit her children. | | | | |

Incorporating Interactional Helping Skills into Placement Practice (continued)

| Situation | My feeling (s) (Tuning Into Self) | Parent/Resource parent's possible attitude/reaction(s)/feeling(s) (Tuning Into Others) | One Key Interactional Helping Skill | Possible approach (What to say/ask) |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <p>4. The experienced resource mother keeps emphasizing how her past foster children fit so easily into her home and talked less and less of their parents once they accept the new house rules and develop a new routine. She expects the same outcome for your child.</p> | | | | |
| <p>5. The resource mother looks at you blankly when you ask her to consider hosting family visits in her home.</p> | | | | |
| <p>6. The resource parent expresses discomfort with the mother's plan to continue pumping breast milk for her infant and dropping it off at the resource parent's house.</p> | | | | |