

Executive Summary

Course Title: *Supervising Visits: Ensuring Safety and Encouraging Parent/Child Attachment*

Outline of Training:

Description: All parent/child visits must be safe, be in the most normal, homelike environment as possible and encourage attachment between the parent and child. This course will provide specific guidelines and tips on how to meet these needs. The course will cover how to set up visits to be successful, how to prevent problems and intervene when needed. The course is designed for anyone responsible to supervise parent/child visits. (In response to the recent changes in San Mateo County this course will provide an opportunity to enhance your skills and address common problems that occur DURING visits.)

Outline:

1. Introduction
 - a. Participants identify common problems that occur during visits in different categories: location, lack of knowing purpose, clarity of groundrules or roles, etc. (Throughout the course the participants will learn of solutions to the most common problems.)
 - b. Each participant writes the beginning of their transfer of learning plan based on a visit problem
 - c. The groundrules of all visits.
2. Purposes of visits
 - a. Meeting the child's needs (this course will focus on this purpose)
 - b. Helping the parent learn or demonstrate parenting skills (the focus of the second course)
3. Roles and responsibilities for visits
 - a. Visit supervisors (when not the assigned caseworker)
 - b. County caseworker
 - c. Caregiver
 - d. Birth Parent
 - e. Transporter
 - f. Child/Youth
4. The visit
 - a. Ensuring safety
 - b. Setting a pattern for successful visits
 - i. Hello,
 - ii. the work of the visit, and
 - iii. good-bye
 - c. Before and After visits
 - i. Preparing everyone

- ii. Transportation – handling the transfer of the child to minimize problems
 - iii. Debriefing with adults and child
 - iv. Communication with caregivers, supervise of the visit and caseworkers
- 5. Attachment/bonding
 - a. Selecting activities and things to have/do on visits based on a child's age
 - b. Identifying and handling common grief, loss and separation issues for children and adults
 - c. Giving directions that work - "You Don't say" use of positive instructions - exercise
- 6. Visit safety
 - a. Developing the safety plan
 - b. How to intervene with parents and children
 - c. Stopping a visit/handling difficult situations
- 7. High risk cases: Handling safety issues
 - a. Addicted parents
 - b. Mentally ill parents
 - c. Domestic violence
- 8. Documenting a visit
 - a. Things to know before a visit – what should be in the visit plan and questions to ask the caseworker
 - b. What to document and how
 - c. Communication with caseworker
- 9. Questions and problem solving
- 10. Closing
 - a. Evaluation
 - b. Transfer of Learning – complete plan based on what they learned today

Target Audience: *Any staff who supervises Parent/Child visits. Case aids, caseworkers, therapeutic visitation workers, and the supervisors of these staff.*

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

1. The participant will be able to list key visit activities and locations that will enhance a child's developmental/attachment needs and the ensure safety.
2. Given a case scenario, the participant will be able to develop a list of appropriate visit activities.
3. The participant will be able to name visit roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in visits.

4. The participant will be able to list the phases of a visit and how to help the child and parent handle common reactions during each phase of the visit.
5. The participant will develop a safety plan for a case.
6. The participant will be able to name high risk cases and recommendations on how to ensure safety for each type of risk.
7. The participant will practice how to give positive directions to adults and children.
8. The participant will practice documenting a visit.

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training

Review the executive summary for both courses and help staff determine who should attend each session. Have staff identify common problems they have during visits or have staff identify his/her fears about visits. Review visits plans in his/her caseload to see what is included currently in the plan: purpose, length, location, level of supervision, safety issues, what parenting activities will occur, etc.

AFTER the training

Review current visit plans and determine what improvements need to be made in the written plan. Review one case where visits have had problems. Using the tips from the class develop a plan on how to address visit issues. Check back with staff member to see if changes improved the visits and if not what else should occur. Do ongoing case reviews to identify visit problems that cause a child to be unsafe or traumatized to ensure solutions are developed.