

The Forrester Family Transcript and Activity

Section One

0:56:46 Opening Text

An individualized family assessment is the cornerstone of family-centered child protection. Without a complete and accurate assessment of family needs, contributing factors to maltreatment and family resources and strengths, the service plan will not solve the immediate problems, much less generate positive and lasting family change. The family assessment is most effective when conducted jointly by the worker and family members in the context of a supportive and enabling casework relationship. The following videotape segment illustrates casework strategies that promote the parent's involvement in the assessment process and generate critical information to be used in developing a relevant case plan.

0:57:45 Carol

“Oh no, you seem upset.”

0:57:48 Ms. Forrester

“Yeah, I failed a test today at job training.”

0:57:50 Carol

“Oh, no. No wonder you're upset. Why do you think you failed?”

0:57:56 Ms. Forrester

“A lot of things. Especially you being on my case. And Jon being at my sister's. It's just too much.”

0:58:05 Carol

“Well, I’m not surprised. I mean, you have been under a lot of stress lately. What happens when you fail a test?”

0:58:13 Ms. Forrester

“They’ll probably kick me out.”

0:58:15 Carol

“Why would you think that?”

0:58:17 Ms. Forrester

“Because that’s the way things usually work out.”

0:58:19 Carol

“No, that’s not usually the way things work out. Look, why don’t you call your advisor? Explain to him that you’ve been under a lot of stress lately and see if your advisor will let you take a make-up test. I mean, is there anything I can do? I’d be happy to talk to your advisor.”

0:58:35 Ms. Forrester

“No. I’ll do it myself. Believe me, I’m not incompetent.”

Activity

In your triads, role play this scene, picking up where Ms. Forrester left off. Remember, the purpose of today’s interview is the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment. When the trainer calls time, the coach has some instructions that will help you process your work. When finished, the trainer will start the video again so you can see how Carol handled the situation.