

Lab 3, Activity 1: Summarization Skills

Case Manager's Interview with Foster Parent

Case Manager: When we talked on the phone you said Melissa was having some problems?

Foster Parent: Yes, she just doesn't seem to have adjusted as quickly as some the other children have.

Case Manager: Can you tell me what's going on with her?

Foster Parent: Well, she's not getting along with my kids. It seems like she doesn't want to have anything to do with Jimmy and Beth. In the beginning they tried to get her to play, they were real nice to her, but she wasn't interested and now they pretty much ignore her. I guess they just got tired of trying.

Case Manager: So you're concerned that she keeps to herself too much and hasn't become friends with Beth and Jimmy?

Foster Parent: Yes, and another thing, she wakes up in the middle of the night crying and I go into her room and it takes me a long time to calm her down. She won't tell me if she's had a bad dream or what it is, but she clings to me for a little while and then she finally calms down and goes to sleep.

Case Manager: How often does this happen?

Foster Parent: About 2 or 3 times a week and she's hardly mentioned her mother since she's been with us. I wonder if she could be holding all this in and it comes out at night in her sleep?

Case Manager: So you're concerned about several things, first that she's kind of isolated herself from Beth and Jimmy, second that she wakes up crying at night, and third that she hasn't talked about her mother with you.

Foster Parent: Yeah

Case Manager: Well, which of these do you think is the most critical to work on immediately

Foster Parent: Well to tell you the truth, I think they're all related to the fact that she hasn't really dealt with her mother's death yet.

Case Manager: It seems like the most important thing is to figure out a way to get her to talk about it somehow.

Case Manager: So you think if you could help her talk about her feelings about losing her mother, some of her other problems might go away?

Foster Parent: I don't know for sure but she just seem so unhappy all the time. It just seems like it would be best if she could talk it out.

Case Manager: Well let's talk about some ways to approach getting her to open up.