

Trainer Handout 2-1A:
Mother Background Information
Activity 2-1: Informal Screening

Give this card to the participants playing the role of Lisa in the roleplay.

Mother (Lisa) Information

Following the divorce from your first husband (married at 17, divorced at 24), you began smoking marijuana occasionally and drinking 3 or 4 beers a day as a “mood lifter.”

Currently, you’ll admit that you will use methamphetamine very rarely, when necessary to get through a night shift at the diner – the other waitresses always have some – and then maybe a few drinks to wind down at the end of the shift. You feel the substance use has no effect on the boys or your care for them. “It is just hard for me, working evenings, to make sure the boys stay on track.”

Trainer Handout 2-1B:
Son (Ian) Background Information
Activity 2-1: Informal Screening

Give this card to the participants playing the role of Ian in the roleplay.

Ian (son) Information

You love your mother very much. You have learned to make breakfast cereal and lunch sandwiches for you and Ricky, as your mother is often sleeping until 2:00. You don't eat meals on a regular schedule. You can't remember the last time you got new clothes. You like not having to take baths or brush your teeth very often. You've learned that if you make a big enough fuss about something you don't like to do – like go to school – your mother will usually back off and leave you alone.

Trainer Handout 2-1C:
Family Background Information
Activity 2-1: Informal Screening

Give this handout to all the participants.

Lisa Stripling 42, single mother
Anna Stripling, 24, married daughter
Ashley Stripling, 22, single daughter, not living at home
Ian Jensen, 6, son
Ricky Jensen, 5, son
Dan Jensen, 40, father of Ian and Ricky; previously convicted for methamphetamine manufacturing and sales; very recently released from prison; hasn't been in contact with Lisa.

Lisa Stripling was reported to DCF by her daughters because they felt she was neglecting their two younger half-brothers, Ian and Ricky. The daughters had previously pressured their mother to get a substance use evaluation, but she refused. Therefore, they called the Hotline. There is no record of previous contact with DCF and no criminal history for Lisa.

School collateral information:

The boys have missed 28 days of school this year (it is now February).

The children have not been formally tested for behavioral/emotional problems, but both are experiencing difficulties with learning and interacting with other children.

Ian has a variety of behavioral problems. He is aggressive, manipulative, oppositional, and defiant. He is below grade level in most academic areas and has rapidly destroyed several toys and property belonging to other children at the program. According to his teacher, Ricky shows some early signs of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and maybe other neuro-behavioral complications. He has difficulty following instructions, is easily frustrated, has poor motor skills, and has frequent angry outbursts.

Home Visit

When visiting the home, the CPI noticed that the family was living in complete disarray. The living room was cluttered with empty pizza boxes, soda and beer cans, and dirty dishes were piled high in the sink and on the stove. There was no milk, dairy products, fruit, vegetables, or meat in the refrigerator. Clothes were strewn throughout the home's two small bedrooms.

The two boys were dressed in clothes that they had outgrown and that were filthy and worn out. Both boys appeared to have upper respiratory infections. They stated they had not eaten that day. During the visit, Lisa appeared anxious and jittery although there were no overt signs of drug use in the home, such as drug paraphernalia.

Lisa appears frail, underweight and unkempt, her skin is pale, her teeth are in poor condition and a front tooth appears to be chipped. Lisa chain-smokes throughout the entire interview.

Lisa's family story summary:

Lisa says her daughters are good girls; they just worry too much, especially about Ian and Ricky. (The boys know to call Anna is something happens when Lisa is working.) But, with Dan in prison, things did go from bad to worse. The only job she could get was the night shift at a nearby diner – and that barely pays the rent and basic food. The boys are getting to be a handful and they just wear Lisa out. Lisa says she tries to get them to school – they don't want to go – but some nights she comes home too tired to fight with them about it. Between working, trying to pay the bills, raising the boys, and not knowing what will happen with Dan now that he is out of prison, she says she's struggling, but "I love my boys and I'm a fighter – I'll make it through."