

Trainer Handout 2-2B:
Mother Information
Activity 2-2: Screening Interview

Mother (Sonia) Information

You love your children very much. They are the most important thing in your life. You appreciate that Alisa wants to help out by making breakfast every so often. There are mornings when you just can't get out of bed, as it took so long to get to sleep because of the migraines. At those times, it's nice to have Alisa as a "little helper." Alisa will also help with the laundry and cleaning when you tell her to. You feel both Alisa and Sam are growing up so fast.

The father of your children took off three years ago and you don't know where he went. He's had no contact with you or the children.

If questioned about the migraines, say that the migraines have been better controlled as you take your pills. You can't remember the name of the medication. You won't show the investigator the medication or look in the medicine cabinet because, "my medical issues are personal."

You'll admit to drinking quite a lot as a teenager and that's why you got caught with the open container at the state park. After that, you cut down on your drinking until you met the father of your children. He liked to party and you had fun with him. After he left, you cut down on your drinking. You began drinking more in the last year, but still you don't feel you drink to the point that it affects your children.

Your mother doesn't help you much. She feels you should be doing more with your life. She says you're drinking too much, but she never did drink so she just doesn't know. You feel she doesn't understand that being the mother for two young children is more than a full-time job in itself, let alone working at Wal-Mart part-time. It bothers you that your mother says you're spending too much money on beer. Between working, taking care of the kids, and these migraines, you need something for a lift.

You know the kids don't have new clothes, and they haven't been to a doctor in a long time, but times are tough – your job at Wal-Mart isn't enough to make ends meet.

You'll admit to smoking marijuana every once in awhile, feeling that everyone does it. It's fun and makes it easy for you to sleep, too. You don't let it affect the children, though, and they are not in the house when you smoke.

Note: If you are asked a question that seems overly confrontive, accusatory, or coercive, cross your arms in front of you to indicate your defensiveness as a result of that question.