

Attachment Scenario

▶ Now as a group take a minute to evaluate the following case example and make recommendations or case plans to support the attachment of the children in the case. Many times what appears to be the “best” solution is not feasible, so try to come up with a plan B as well.

CASE EXAMPLE

Maria is a 25 year old mother who delivered twins yesterday. A hotline was received because Maria tested positive for cocaine at delivery. The hospital failed to test the children. The social worker is concerned with attachment issues since the children are very young and are currently in the bonding window of opportunity. What steps or resources could the worker take advantage of to promote healthy attachment of the children?

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Alex, Zachary and Katie are siblings that were placed in foster care because their mother passed away and there are no known relatives to care for the children. Alex is the oldest at 14 years old. Zachary is 6 and Katie is 10 months old. The social worker tried, but was unsuccessful in finding a placement that would accept all 3 children. One foster home stated that they would take two of the children and one foster home said they would take one child. The foster homes have given no preference on age or sex of the children they are willing to take. What would be the best solution to promote healthy attachment for the children? What are options the social worker could explore?

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Anna age 8 and Nadia age 4 have been in foster care for 6 months because their mother was killed in a drunk driving accident and their father was incarcerated on manslaughter charges from the accident. They have no social support in the area. Shortly after the children were placed in foster care, their worker received a transfer to a different office and the case was transferred to another worker. The 2nd worker had the case for approximately 2 months when a new worker was hired to take the place of Anna and Nadia’s first worker. The case was then transferred to the new worker to try to spread the cases out evenly. The new worker has been in training off and on for the first 2 months of carrying the case. The children have also been very disruptive in several of their placements and are now in their 4th foster home. What can be done from this point to help support healthy attachment of the children? What if anything could have been changed to promote healthy attachment when the children were first placed in foster care?

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Joshua is a 4 month old boy that was recently removed from his parents due to the manufacturing of methamphetamines in the home. Joshua spends a great deal of time with relatives in the area as his parents have been in and out of jail. His parents are currently in jail and are awaiting trial. The parents have been prosecuted for methamphetamine manufacturing in the past and law enforcement tells the social worker that they anticipate that the parents will be going to prison for at least 2 years. Knowing this is a critical period for attachment what are some of the resources and steps the social worker can take to promote healthy attachment for Joshua?

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Katrina is a 9 year old girl who has been in and out of foster care 4 times in the last 4 years. She has been placed with the same foster family 3 out of the 4 times. Katrina has been on a 90 day home trial with intensive in-home services. The intensive in-home service worker has shared concerns with you that may disrupt the placement. What can be done to support healthy attachment for Katrina?

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David is a 7 year old boy that was removed from his aunt's home along with his 4 cousins. David has had no contact with his mother and has been raised by his aunt for 5 years. When the children were placed in a foster home David was separated from his cousins due to lack of space at the foster homes. David often cries for his aunt and cousins. David appears to be especially upset over his separation from his 16 year old cousin Natalie. Since being in the foster home David has shown signs of depression and has practically refused to talk to anyone. His foster family is at the “end of their rope” with David and have asked to speak to the worker about possible removal of David from their home. What can be done for David to support healthy attachment?

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Cheyenne 2 years old and Wennonah 4 years old are sisters that were removed from their mother’s home, where their maternal grandmother also lived, for unsanitary living conditions and chronic poor hygiene. Upon removal the children cried for their “Nana”, their grandmother, and showed little concern for leaving their mother. Their mother has relocated to an apartment and continues to work on her service plan. The children’s grandmother has cleaned the home and has continued to maintain cleanliness. The mother and grandmother have been feuding off and on and are often not speaking to one another. The children continue to cry for their “Nana” rather than for their mother. What if anything can be done to promote healthy attachment of Cheyenne and Wennonah?

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Ivan, 10 years, Dmitriy, 11 years, and Stepan, 13 years, are brothers. The 3 boys were placed into foster care 5 years ago and their parents’ rights were terminated. After a series of foster placement the boys were placed with a potential adoptive placement. The boys were then adopted 3 years ago. A hotline was received and the boys were placed in protective custody due to reports of sexual abuse by the adoptive mother. The adoptive mother and father have since separated, but it is unknown if they will remain separated. What can be done to promote healthy attachment of the boys?