

SHOMARI JOHNSON CASE SCENARIO

Shomari Johnson is a five year old African American boy who came into care diagnosed as failure-to-thrive. His medical records show he was growing normally until two years ago. About six months prior to that time, his mother decided to become vegetarian and refused to give the child meat, fish, poultry or dairy products. After Shomari was referred to us by a neighbor, the mother refused to accept training from a nutritionist on how to design and prepare vegetarian diets. The child was placed at that time. The father and grandparents on both sides are deceased. The mother was an only child. The mother has refused to visit Shomari. Since placement, Shomari has gained enough weight to bring him into the normal range of physical development. Preliminary tests do not show any mental retardation due to faulty nutrition. Shomari is an active, inquisitive five year old who is fascinated by anything mechanical. He likes to take things apart although he can't quite figure out how to get all the pieces back together again. He enjoys helping his foster mother in the kitchen, particularly when she is preparing his favorite foods: macaroni and cheese, chocolate pudding, fried chicken, and sweet potato pie. He is free for adoption.