

→ Intake is a complicated process that requires...

- The ability to assess the continuing risk to the child and to determine the ability of family members to protect the child.
- The ability to recognize and properly identify physical, behavioral, and developmental indicators of maltreatment in children.
- The ability to observe, recognize, and assess family dynamics that contribute to risk of maltreatment, or that represent strengths and safety factors.
- The ability to use various strategies to defuse family members' anger, to engage and empower the family, to gather appropriate assessment data, and to begin to establish a helping relationship.

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(continued)

- The ability to use strategies and community resources to protect children within their own homes, through immediate supportive and protective services that develop the parents' ability to protect their own children, thereby preventing the need for placement.
- When placement is necessary, knowledge of methods to determine when and how to remove children from their families, and where to place them to assure their safety and prevent unnecessary placement trauma.