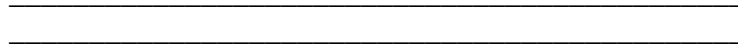


## **RISK CATEGORY II CARETAKER, HOUSEHOLD MEMBER, PERPETRATOR**

In review of the characteristics of abusing parents, Spinetta and Rigler (1972) conclude that an interplay of mental, physical, and emotional stresses underlay child abuse. True psychosis is seen in the most violent and abusive parents, but only a few abusing parents show severe psychotic tendencies.

Martin (1976) has found a pattern of role reversal in maltreating families in which parents look to the children to provide emotional support or to “make them happy.” Further, children were expected to take on tasks far beyond their developmental ages; to be toilet trained by 6-12 months; to be able to talk before age 2; and to help with the washing, housecleaning, food preparation and serving at a very early age. Steele and Pollact (1968) similarly found that abusive parents look to their children for reassurance; comfort, and support.



A) From the video, discuss Eli Creekmore’s parents and their relationship. Compile a list of “characteristics” for both mother and father that may have contributed to the abusive environment in the home.

B. From the video, discuss the relationship that Eli Creekmore had with his parents. If you were assessing this family, what problems would you identify in the relationship between the child and the father. What problems would you identify in the relationship between the child and mother.