

Preparing Primary Caregivers for Out-of-Home Placement

- ❖ The **reasons for the removal and placement** of the child must be thoroughly **explained and discussed with the parents**. Even when parents appear unreceptive to hearing about the reasons, it is critical the worker covers this information and allows the parents to react early in the process.
- ❖ Parents should be **encouraged to help explain the reasons for the placement to the child, and give the child a positive parting message**, whenever possible. This should help comfort the child and help reassure the child that they will work with the Child Welfare Professional so the child can return home.
- ❖ **Ask parents to provide in-depth information** regarding the child's schedule, routines, likes, dislikes, and needs to help the caregivers maintain continuity for the child. It is very helpful if the parent can communicate this information directly to the caregiver.
- ❖ Use Interactional Skills to **acknowledge the parents' anger and grief** in response to the loss of their children, and expect them to be initially resistant. The Child Welfare Professional should be supportive throughout the process.
- ❖ **Involve parents** in all aspects of the planning and placement process.
 - * If pre-placement is possible, solicit their input, asking them questions, such as, "Is having the child placed in a home where the same religion is practiced important?" Work with the parent to prioritize a list of considerations, and try to accommodate them as much as possible.
 - * Even if options are limited, it is important to convey that their concerns are important and to support their feelings.