

# Kizzy

Handout #7

Kizzy is five years old. She lives with her maternal aunt. Her nine-year old sister and the aunt's five children also live in the home. The children's service agency had licensed the aunt's home as a foster home and had placed Kizzy and her sister there. Kizzy had previously lived with her mother, who was addicted to heroin. The mother had severely abused and neglected Kizzy. She was repeatedly beaten with a belt, and had been locked up in closets for hours at a time.

The aunt provided a loving, stable, empathetic and structured environment for Kizzy. She planned to provide a home for Kizzy on a permanent basis. Kizzy was evaluated by the children's service psychologist for the purposes of case planning, including educational planning. As a result of the evaluation and the aunt's cooperation, Kizzy was enrolled in a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary day treatment program for emotionally disturbed and developmentally delayed preschool-aged children. The following information was derived from the psychological evaluation and through observation of Kizzy at the day treatment center.

- \* Kizzy was physically average in height. She was slightly underweight. She was pigeon-toed, held her body in a stiff manner, was clumsy when she walked and ran, and often appeared as if she would topple over.
- \* Kizzy used language to communicate. Although her pronunciation was clear, she often omitted prepositions and verbs from her sentences.
- \* She played along side of other children, but would not play with them. She was unable to share and often became involved in arguments and fights with other children over the use of toys. She occasionally bit other children.
- \* She did not know how to play imaginatively. When given a doll, she immediately threw it against the wall.
- \* The aunt reported that Kizzy followed her around at home all day and became distressed when the aunt left home to go on errands.
- \* When she could not have her way, Kizzy threw violent temper tantrums, which included screaming, biting, kicking, and swearing. This happened five to eight times a day at the day treatment center.
- \* Kizzy hoarded food in her bedroom at home, and in her clothing at home and at the day treatment center.
- \* Her overall demeanor was that of an unsocialized, tense, aggressive little girl. She carefully watched the adults around her and was continually poised to fight. Even in her sleep she appeared unable to relax.