

Separation and Placement Competencies

The following child welfare competencies are addressed by this training module:

- The Child Welfare Professional understands the process and dynamics of normal attachment of children to their parents and to other significant caregivers.
- The Child Welfare Professional understands the potentially traumatic outcomes of the separation and placement experience for children and their families, including precipitation of psychological crisis, serious disruption of family relationships, and disturbances in the child's cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development.
- The Child Welfare Professional can define reunification and permanency planning and knows the negative effects on children of changing and inconsistent living arrangements.
- The Child Welfare Professional can weigh the risk to a child of remaining at home against the potential trauma of separation when deciding whether to place a child into substitute care.
- The Child Welfare Professional can recognize the physical, emotional, and behavioral indicators of placement-induced stress in children of different ages.
- The Child Welfare Professional can recognize the physical, emotional, and behavioral indicators of placement-induced stress in the families of children being placed.
- The Child Welfare Professional understands how properly structuring a placement can help prevent crisis and its consequences; and can conduct placement activities, including pre-placement preparation and visits, that minimize stress and provide emotional support to the child and family.
- The Child Welfare Professional knows how to prepare foster caregivers, relatives, and other substitute caregivers to receive children in placement to reduce the child's stress and facilitate the child's adjustment.

- The Child Welfare Professional can work collaboratively with foster caregivers to assess a child's need for special developmental, medical, educational, social, psychological, and other services; to identify resources; and to obtain needed services.
- The Child Welfare professional can work collaboratively with foster caregivers to assess a child's need for special developmental, medical, educational, social, psychological, and other services; to identify resources; and to obtain needed services.
- The Child Welfare Professional can identify ways that poor agency foster care policies and practices can contribute to placement disruption.
- The Child Welfare Professional can implement strategies to identify, strengthen, and maintain the least restrictive, most appropriate placement to meet a child's special needs.
- The Child Welfare Professional knows strategies to empower parents, to involve them in all phases of placement planning and implementation, and to provide services that help them meet case goals and objectives.
- The Child Welfare Professional knows the necessity of regular and frequent visits to maintain the parents' relationship with the placed child, and can use casework strategies that enable parents to participate in planning and attending visits.
- The Child Welfare Professional knows the appropriate use of permanent termination of parental rights and can initiate adoption planning when return of a child to his or her family or to relatives can no longer be considered.
- The Child Welfare Professional knows the personal psychological stresses associated with child placement casework and can identify strategies to prevent emotional distress and burnout.