

## Buddy's Case

**Read the following case study. In your subgroup, answer the questions on page 2. Record your answers on the flip chart paper provided by the trainer.**

The hospital social worker called your agency to report that a 2-year old African-American child named Buddy had been brought to the emergency room by his grandmother, Mrs. Perline Hamilton. Her 21-year-old son had left Buddy at her home two days earlier and said he would be back in a few hours. She hasn't seen her son since. Mrs. Hamilton said Buddy had been crying continuously since his father left him. She noticed bruises on his upper back when she bathed him. His arm and hand were swollen and beginning to look bruised as well. Buddy keeps pulling at his arm, crying, "hurts, hurts," and was not using it.

X-rays taken at the hospital indicated a spiral fracture of the arm, and previous fractures of the upper arm and ribs. The doctor said the injuries were strongly suggestive of abuse. The hospital report also said that Buddy was low weight for age, malnourished, and showed evidence of generalized developmental delay. He was fretful, withdrawn, and cautious. He did not fight or show distress when his arm was put in a cast; rather, he appeared to be depressed and apathetic.

Mrs. Hamilton is 48 years old and in very poor health. She cares for herself and her disabled husband on Social Security income. She says Buddy visits her often, but she cannot lift him or provide the care and attention he needs. Her son has provided a home for Buddy since his wife left him a year earlier. His wife is paranoid schizophrenic and emotionally unstable. Attempts to provide her with medication and therapy were futile. Her whereabouts are unknown. There are no other family members who can care for Buddy. Mrs. Hamilton thinks her son is pushing drugs; he disappears for long periods, often with Buddy. She worries that Buddy is being exposed to "bad elements" and is not getting the care he needs.

Buddy needs emergency foster home placement. You, Buddy's ongoing Child Welfare Professional, should plan the placement and move Buddy.

**Discuss the following:**

- 1) How would you prepare Buddy for the move?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) How would you prepare his grandmother? How could you involve her in the placement process to minimize Buddy's trauma?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) How would you identify the best placement resource for Buddy? What would you look for in the foster home? How would you prepare the foster caregiver to receive Buddy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Develop a schedule of placement steps, in detail. Exactly what would you do to help Buddy move?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Justify why you should move Buddy, rather than the intake Child Welfare Professional who investigated the complaint.