

Working with Biological Parents Training

The goal of the Working with Biological Parents Training is to make CASA trainees feel more comfortable and confident working with biological parents on their cases.

Below is a Letter from a Biological Mother, Written to Her Child's CASA When the Case Closed:

Katie,

Words cannot convey how grateful I am for everything. You made this whole experience so much easier - just your presence! You have a beautiful energy. I hope we keep up but I truly need you to know what a difference you made to us! Thank you - Thank you
Thank you!

Sometimes advocating for what's best for your child means advocating for their family as a whole.

Ideal Progression of Visitation from the Start to the End of a Juvenile Dependency Case:



**Remember, CASAs never supervise visits, only observe!*

Why Observing Visits are Crucial to Your Case as a CASA

- Reporting in your Court Report
- Building your credibility on the case
- Assessing the progression of visits throughout the reunification process
- Assessing if reunification should occur
- Establishing rapport with the biological parents

Helpful Guide to Observing Visitations Between Biological Parents and Children

Here are some helpful questions to keep in mind and reflect on as you observe visitations between your case child and their biological parents. When it comes time to write your next court report, this information can be useful to include and helpful in guiding your recommendations. Please complete after visit and always document date of visit.

- 1. Please describe the interactions between the child and parent. What are some specific examples of those interactions?*
- 2. Please describe the parent's parenting skills during the visit. What are some specific examples of their parenting skills?*
- 3. Did the parent show up for the visit? Were they on time?*
- 4. Did the parent talk about the court case with the child or tell them that they would be coming home soon?*
- 5. What went well during the visit?*
- 6. What did not go very well?*
- 7. Is there any unique information I alone know from observing these visits?*
- 8. Do I have any concerns to share with my Advocacy Supervisor and the Social Worker?*