

Problem Resolution Activity

In your assigned small group review the scenario, and then develop a strategy for addressing the issue as an emergency foster parent. Determine if the incident is important enough to include in the Behavior Log.

Jordan (newborn)

Jordan cries nonstop. You have learned to discern his various cries. You can tell when he's wet or soiled and try to make sure you address that right away. You have him on a schedule and he is properly fed. You and all the family members pamper him so it appears he's receiving emotional security. However, you are his primary caretaker and he's wearing you down.

Things are a little better in the evening because the rest of the family helps when you are preparing dinner. However, when he cries late at night you try to address his needs, because everyone else needs their sleep so they can go to work and school in the morning. During the day you don't get any rest because he's also crying then.

Aaron (age 11)

Aaron recently received the latest I-Phone from his maternal grandfather as a birthday present. His grandfather missed his grandchildren and had hoped Aaron and Briana would be able to stay in contact with him by Facetimeing him on Sunday afternoons.

This is the first time Aaron has ever had a smartphone. Initially he was overjoyed and used it to Facetime his grandfather as requested since he also missed his grandfather. However, he now spends every minute of the day doing something related to usage of the phone.

Last night, you had to tell him to turn the phone off while he was supposed to be in bed asleep. Instead, he was using the phone to surf the Internet and play video games.

Today, his teacher called and reported she had to take the phone away because he used it to complete his assignment, and afterwards proceeded to watch YouTube music videos on it. She stated he wouldn't be able to get it back until you attend a Parent/Teacher conference next Monday (today is Friday).

When Aaron arrived home in an agitated state and shouted, "That teacher can't teach! I did the assignment and finished before everyone else so I was watching the videos because I was bored. My grades are good. She didn't have to take my phone! Now I can't call Grandpa on Sunday! I hate that teacher and that school!"

Aaron stormed off to the kitchen and placed a large amount of potato chips into a large mixing bowl and started eating them and sobbing.

Briana (age 16)

Briana has a better relationship with your wife who has more patience with Briana's teenage angst than you do. However, your wife is out for the evening when Briana comes in with her clothing reeking of marijuana. Her eyes are reddened and barely open. You confront her with your observations, stating, "You smell like you have been smoking weed and your eyes are bloodshot. You know we don't tolerate that in this house!"

Briana says, "So what if I was. You aint my daddy! F*&^ you!" Your response is "What did you say?" because you can't believe this child just disrespected you! Briana walks past you, goes into her bedroom and slams the door. You follow her into the room and are about to grab her by the neck when your wife arrives and shouts for you to stop.