

Asking the Questions.... Activity

Sharifa

You have been assigned as the Care Manager for Sharifa. She is a 12-year old girl who has spent much of her childhood in foster care. She has been enrolled in Health Homes for about 3 weeks and you've met with her twice.

Her mother passed away when she was 2 years old. She first entered foster care at age 4 when her father was leaving her home alone while he went to work. She has returned home to her father several times in the last 8 years, but each time has been removed for neglect and re-entered into foster care. She currently lives with her foster father, Miguel, and has been with him for the last 3 months.

You also had a chance to speak with a few of her teachers and her school social worker. You've learned that Sharifa has been making threats against her peers and once forcefully pushed a teacher out of her way. Sharifa says that she doesn't have any friends at this school and misses the classmates at her old school (in her father's community). Teachers report Sharifa is very bright but is behind academically due to joining the school mid-year as well as her threatening behaviors.

One of your two visits with her was at her school. You briefly observed her in class and witnessed her drawing in a notebook. When you checked in with her after the class it was clear that she was paying attention and had a good grasp of the content being covered.

You have introduced the CANS to her and she did not want to see it, but understands that you are gathering information on many topics in order to help her. There are a few items on the CANS-NY that you still need to finalize. You have another opportunity to meet with her. This time you've picked her up after school and taken her to a local library where you've found a quiet place to draw and talk.

ITEMS TO EXPLORE AND DISCOVER:

Child Strengths Domain: Family of Origin Foster Family	Child Needs & Functioning Domain: Living Situation Peer Interactions
Behavioral Health Module <i>Anger Control</i>	ACE Domain: Sexual Abuse
School/Academic Function Domain: Educational Partnership <i>School Behavior</i>	

Caregiver: Miguel

When you received this assignment, you learned that Miguel works in the child-serving field. He currently serves children in an after-school program, but your supervisor mentioned that she worked with Miguel earlier in their careers and thinks very highly of him. Your supervisor worries, however, that he might not really realize how challenging being a foster parent can be.

You've met once so far with Miguel and can tell he has a lot of pride in his skills for working with children. He expressed concern about Sharifa's threatening behaviors and gave you a few hints that he thinks she was sexually abused by her father. You've haven't heard this from anyone else and so you're curious to explore what might be causing Miguel to think this.

This is Miguel's first time fostering a young person and he expressed frustration with the Case Manager, who in Miguel's view is not giving him Sharifa's full story.

You are nearing completion of the CANS-NY, but there are still a few items you aren't sure about. Miguel has shown interest in learning about the CANS-NY, and you have given him a crash course in the tool. He was a quick study and is interested to see the completed CANS. There are still a few items that you haven't finalized ratings for, and hope to do that with today's session.

ITEMS TO EXPLORE AND DISCOVER:

<p>Caregiver Domain: Organization Supervision Parenting Stress Informal Supports Family Relationship to the System</p> <p>School/Academic Function Domain: Educational Partnership</p> <p>ACE Domain: Sexual Abuse</p>	
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