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## Script for Poor Engagement

The trainer will play the role of the social worker, Ms. Tolliver. The trainee will play the role of Ms. James.

The parent, Ms. James, appears to be waiting, looks at her watch and taps her foot.

The social worker, Ms. Tolliver, rushes up to Ms. James.

**Ms. Tolliver** – Oh, hello Ms. Jones.

**Ms. James** – It's Ms. James, not Jones.

**Ms. Tolliver** – Sorry. I keep making that mistake. I'm not good at names. Now, let's talk about that case plan. Did you go to the parenting class I told you to go to? The one at Missionary Baptist?

**Ms. James** – No. I didn't go. I'm not Baptist and I don't want to go to classes there.

**Ms. Tolliver** – (Crosses arms). You're not Baptist? Look, the sooner you jump through these hoops, the sooner I'll be able to tell the judge you did your plan. I've got a lot of cases to deal with and I can't be running around finding special classes to meet every need. The classes at Missionary Baptist are approved by the court and they are free. You've got to take what you can get.

**Ms. James** – I don't even understand why I need to go to parenting classes.

**Ms. Tolliver** – Well, it says right here, "Mom to attend 16 week parenting classes for infants and toddlers." (Flips through pages, muttering to herself as she tries to remember the facts of the case). Why does she have to go to the class? Oh, right, because she has a substance abuse history. (Looks up at Ms. James). Because you have a substance abuse history. All moms with substance abuse go to parenting.

**Ms. James** – That seems kind of like a waste of time.

**Ms. Tolliver** – Well, you should do it and get it over with. Now what about your living situation? Did you move back in with your sister? I think she is a good support person who will help you stay on track and get your plan done.

**Ms. James** – No. I didn't. My sister and I argue a lot and it stresses me out to be around her. I'm better off with my roommate.

**Ms. Tolliver** – Wow, Ms. Jones, you are really off the rails here. Things are looking bleak.