
Script for Good 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, and the social worker, Ms. Tolliver walk up to the front of the room together.

Ms. Tolliver – Oh, hello Ms. James. How are you today?

Ms. James – I'm OK. I just left a visit with De'Juan. It's hard to leave him. He cries and I don't know what to do.

Ms. Tolliver – I'm sorry. I know that must be hard for you. Have you mentioned it to your parenting group? They might have some ideas for you.

Ms. James – No. I didn't go to the group. They meet at the Baptist church and I'm not Baptist. I don't feel comfortable there.

Ms. Tolliver – Oh! I didn't realize that would be hard for you. Maybe I could find a class that would be a better fit. What kind of setting would help you feel more comfortable?

Ms. James – I guess something not in a church, maybe at the community center. I'm not religious and I don't like being around church because my uncle used to make us go. Anyway, I don't even understand why I need to go to parenting classes.

Ms. Tolliver – Well, remember when you did the case plan with Ms. Nichols? I guess she thought it was something you needed, maybe because you are a new mom and there are some tricks of the trade that you can pick up in a parenting class. Also, when De'Juan was removed he was underweight. I know you were using at the time and your work in your substance abuse treatment program has been going well, but I want to encourage you to think about going to parenting class, too. Are there things about babies and development you would like to learn more about?

Ms. James – I like to talk to other moms and hear about how they handle it when the baby cries.

Ms. Tolliver – I think you might like the class at the community college. It has a group sharing time, like a mom's group. I'll get you the information. Remember to ask them about some ideas for a routine to follow when you end your visits with De'Juan. Sometimes if you do something special at the end of the visit, like singing a special song, it helps. I think it is great that you are willing to give the class a try. It shows me how serious you are about being a mom.