

OBSERVING FAMILY VISITS

One component of your advocacy will be observing family visits. Visits may be monitored or unmonitored; they may take place at the CPS office, in a therapeutic environment such as in a therapist's office, in a family member's home, or in a public place such as McDonalds or a park. Dr. Brenda Wilbanks has provided CASA the following guide to assist volunteers in observing and documenting interactions during a family visit. Because both children and parents' behaviors vary considerably from one session to another, observations need to be made over time and over sessions.

General Interaction Parents address appropriate topics with the children _____ Greeting of the children and parting from them Are the parents and children emotional? Do they interact affectionately? Engaging them in age appropriate interaction ______ Dividing Time Among all of the Children? **Behavior Management** Limit setting by the parents _____ Consistency in behavior management ______ Assertiveness in parenting _____ Accepting the parental role

Bonding/Attachment

Parents Showing affection _____ Giving positive feedback and focusing on the child's strengths Listening to the child _____ Encouraging the child to participate in activities Refraining from inappropriate questioning and negative comments Demonstrating consideration of the child's needs _____ Child(ren) Expressing feelings freely _____ Being affectionate with parents and responding to affection Making eye contact _____ Appearing at ease when parents are near _____ Seeking comfort and reassurance