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