

Trainer Handout 3-1B: Family Story: Mary Mason

Directions for Strengths and Family Story Role Play: Mother

As a group, review the role play card description for the mother. Discuss your impressions of the mother so you can all play the role in a similar manner. How can this mother be portrayed in a manner that stays true to who she is?

Also, discuss how she views the purpose for the agency intervention, i.e., the family story. How would she explain the family's situation? Is the exception on the role play card realistic? Can you think of a better one to use? If so, agree as a group to use the new exception. Is the miracle question realistic? Can you think of a better one to use?

When you join the role play groups, assume that the CPI and counselor have already established rapport with you and you are starting to feel more comfortable with them. You are a little surprised to be talking about your strengths.

Strengths

- You love the children and try hard to care for them
- You completed high school and 1 semester of college; you were a good student
- You have good verbal and social skills; read and write well.
- There is no indication of substance abuse.
- Your mother lives close by and is willing to help when asked.
- You have a sister in the area, but are not close to her
- You feel you have no mental health problems.
- You have no police record.
- You are generally a good housekeeper
- You have one good friend you met in college who encourages you to go back to school

Family Story

- You feel trapped in a marriage; having to take care of children with no help from Paul.
- You feel that Paul doesn't love you because he has affairs.
- You like to read and you often read to John.
- You would really like to go back to college and have a career
- You feel guilty about not recognizing the seriousness of Bobby's diaper rash.
- You admit to being overwhelmed from taking care of the children, but you do love them.
- You are scared about your ability to take care of another baby, and that it will have problems like Bobby.
- You have been depressed because of the relationship with Paul. It has caused you to sleep a lot & not be able to take care of things like you use to.
- You do not deny or admit the current allegations, but are open to help to improve your family life.

Exceptions

You remember when you would put on some music, clean the house, prepare dinner for the family and still have time to care for and play with the children. The children never got sick then.

Miracle

You don't feel sad any more. Bobby is growing and sitting up by himself. John is less defiant and more loving. Paul stays at home more and helps with the children. You have enough money to put the children in day care and Paul supports you going back to school.