



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 _____
