

# Matching Children with Families

## Background Notes

The process of matching children with families is ongoing until the child returns home or is permanently placed in an alternate setting. An important part of casework is assessing the appropriateness and safety of the child's substitute placement. One part of gaining this understanding is to completely read your case file. Talking to the previous worker, community service providers, the caregiver and the caregiver's certifier is best practice and fills in the areas that the written documentation may not have completely explained.

### Tasks / Assignments:

- ❑ Ask your Supervisor for a Child Summary, 421 and the child's CANS assessment to review. Make a list of the child specific needs, strengths and interests. When you have read both documents answer the following questions:
  - What type of family would be a good match for this child?
  - What qualities should a family have to be successful with this child?
  - What behaviors does this child have that might be challenging?
  - What kind of training or experience would be important in caring for this child?
- ❑ Ask your Supervisor for a SAFE Adoption Home study to read. Use the Home Study Review form in the appendix to record what you learn about the strengths and qualities of the family. How would this family succeed with the child whose case you reviewed? Discuss your assessment of the match with your Supervisor.

### Discoveries:

- *What is the process for writing a thorough child summary?*
- *What are the basic sections in a SAFE Adoption Home Study?*
- *What would you look for in assessing a child's current substitute care placement regarding appropriateness of match?*
- *What are the qualities that are and aren't matches for the child and family information you reviewed?*