

Settling In

Background Notes

Resource knowledge is an integral part of the work the child welfare worker will need in order to assist families in meeting their needs and making changes in their lives. Developing working relationships with your community partners will ensure your clients get the appropriate services they need in a timely fashion. Matching the unique needs of a family to the resources in the community is the art of casework. In addition, removing barriers to accessing resources is crucial to successful family outcomes.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask a coworker how they manage the phone numbers and contact information for their community resources.
- Develop your own system organizing information in order to contact the common community partners you will be in contact with on a regular basis. Typical partners would include your family court or juvenile department, children's mental health agency, health department, law enforcement departments, schools, pediatric clinics, drug and alcohol treatment centers, hospital social workers, Self-Sufficiency offices, and a variety of other resources. Formal and informal resources are keys to successful casework.
- Ask your coworker what informal resources they utilize.

Discoveries:

- *What did you learn from your coworker that you want to implement in your own work?*