

# Transitioning Children

## Background Notes

Moving children into substitute care from their birth family can be a very traumatic experience for children. In addition, once the child enters the child welfare system they may experience multiple moves and possibly a move to a permanent family other than their birth family. Minimizing the trauma for a child in transition is a key task of the child welfare worker.

### Tasks / Assignments:

- Talk with your Supervisor or a coworker about the effect of multiple moves on children in care. Ask them for specific examples of where a move has been both beneficial and detrimental.
- What recommendations do they have for minimizing moves and the trauma caused when moves do occur?
- Ask your Supervisor to connect you with a coworker who is planning to transition a child home and meet with the worker to discuss how the transition plan was developed and participate in the transition plan process.
- Read the handouts "Strategies for Transitioning Children" and "Preparing Children to Return Home" from the appendix and discuss with your supervisor.
- Ask the coworker what common grief reactions they experienced in transitions, both in themselves, the children and caregivers.

### Discoveries:

- *What did you learn that you will use immediately in your work?*
- *What can you share with foster parents to help smooth transitions?*
- *Identify common grief reactions in children who are separated from parents.*