



# **Ages and Stages of Advocacy Infant-Toddler Program Child Advocates of Fort Bend**

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# CASA'S VISION FOR CHANGE



- The Fort Bend County Court Team Project began over 7 years ago with the assistance of Rep. Tom Delay and the Zero to Three Program out of Washington, DC. Fort Bend County was the Pilot Project for the program. This project is meant to better meet the needs of parents and their young children while their case is involved in the courts.
- This project attempts to do this through a group effort by Judge Ron Pope, Fort Bend Child Protective Services (CPS), County Attorney's office, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Substance Abuse Programs, Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), Mental Health Providers, Attorney's and many others.



# Project Goals

- Educate parents about the importance of early relationships and development of their child
- Ensure that their child receives appropriate developmental screenings and services when recommended
- Increase visitations
- Monthly court hearings to ensure accountability
- Reunification/Relative Conservatorship/Adoption



# How do we accomplish change?

- Ages 0-5
- Visitations of the past/ today
- During visitations CASA's emphasis is to encourage:
  - Ages 0-5 Child Development/Bonding
  - Ages 4-5 Pre-school and Kindergarten Readiness
- Parent Friendly



# Positive Visitation Practices

- Observe and listen to your parent's
- Build a rapport
  - Talk the parents about their child.
  - Gather information. Ex: Doctor visits, medical issues (reflux), allergies, food likes and dislikes, daily routines, bedtime, etc.
  - Bring pictures of the child to share with the parents
- Parenting Skills
  - Focus on parent-child interaction
- Look for the POSITIVE.
  - Build on the Positive no matter how small



# CASA Tools for Effective Visitation

- Blue Folder
- Developmental Milestones
- Recognizing Delays Handouts
- Guidelines to Pre-School Readiness
- Visitation Bag



# Visitation Timeline

- Welcome and Play 15 minutes
- Bonding/Sensory 5 minutes
- Sensory/lotion/massage (bath time)
- Snack 15 minutes
- Parents bring a healthy food from home or feed/bottle baby
- Clean-up/Diaper Change 5 minutes
- Story-time/Cuddling 10 minutes
- Goodbye <5 Minutes



# Parent Visitation Assessment Form

- Easy way to report what was observed during the visit
- Use the Assessment Form after every visit
- Court Reports
- Tracks progress
- Becomes part of the case file
- Reference when preparing for trial
- Works for any child/parent visit





# Pre-School and Kindergarten Readiness

- Early Head Start/Head Start
- Pre-K/Kindergarten
  - Zoning
- How will I know if My Child is Ready for Kindergarten? (Handout)
- Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD)



# Job Well Done!!

- When Monkey's Run the Zoo, Parenting Pointers 0-6 years old, by Dianne Warren
- Gymboree Party



# Questions and Answers