



What Would Solomon Do?

Speak positively about the parent and reassure the child that the parent loves them.

- "Your mommy loves you very much and I'm sure she misses you."
- "Your mommy is very pretty."

Be honest and sensitive when discussing the legal proceedings

- "Your mommy loves you very much, but she has made some bad choices."
- "Your mommy has to take some classes so that she can learn how to take better care of you and your brother."
- "Your parents have to do what the Judge tells them before you can go home."

Model supportive behavior in the presence of the child.

- Greet the parent in a supportive and respectful manner
- Hug the parent if appropriate
- Share information about the child
- Receive any gifts in an appreciative manner
- Place the framed photo of the parent in the child's bedroom

Support the role of the Biological Parent

- Be responsive if the child talks about the biological family/parents
- Respect the visitation schedule
- Encourage the child to enjoy gifts purchased by the parent
- Set aside graded school work and art projects while telling the child you are going to share it with the parent. With report cards- remove any identifying information with respect to the school attended by the child, if necessary.
- Reassure the child that the parent is working hard to regain custody (if true)

Scheduling of the Visits

- Allow for a period of transition before and after visits
- Do not schedule activities directly before or after the visits
- Avoid scheduling the visits during a time when a special event is scheduled (party, outing)
- Post a calendar with the visitation times marked

If the child acts out before or after visits

- Mention to the child you notice a change in behaviors before/after visits
- Reinforce to the child that it is okay to have feelings about the visits, but that it is not okay to hurt others break things/ be disrespectful
- Brainstorm transitional activities/appropriate outlets for dealing with feelings
- Empathize with the child that you do care
- Set limits on inappropriate behaviors
- Reach out to the therapist or social worker if you have concerns or questions