

HANDOUT 3-5 CASE STUDIES

GROUP ONE: Toddler

A foster parent picks up their two-year old from Head Start. The child did not have a nap and had a difficult afternoon while playing with others. The child is strapped into their car seat, given a snack and foster parent makes the 30 minute drive home. About halfway home the child began to fall asleep and drops their snack box. The child begins to get upset and parent tries to console them while driving. Parent is 10 minutes from home, driving on the highway and unable to pull over, so they do their best to head for home. By the time they are home the child is in full meltdown; shrieking, gagging, kicking the back of the seat and trying to break free of their car seat straps.

GROUP TWO: School Age

A seven year-old child in care has vision impairment that requires glasses for reading and fine motor activity. The child was frustrated with a work assignment and, in an emotional state, took their glasses off and crushed them. Upon finding out the glasses were broken the foster parent sent child to their room.

The foster parent replaced the glasses with a more durable pair and explained to child that the glasses were important, they needed to be taken care of and that they are difficult to replace. A few days later, the child became upset again. They took off their glasses, bent and cranked them, then hid them under the mattress.

GROUP THREE: Adolescent

A youth in foster care was gifted a phone by their birth parent at a recent visit. They had not seen the parent in a while, due to the parent's out-of-town work schedule. A rule in the youth's current foster home is that all electronics need to be turned in at curfew. One night the youth returns home from being out with friends. The foster parent sets the basket out for the phones and devices to be turned in and the youth refuses. They tell the parent in an agitated voice, "You are not the boss of me and I have every right to keep this phone." The foster parent reminds the youth of the house rule and again asks for the phone stepping toward them with hand out. The youth escalates, cussing at foster parent and telling them to, "Come at me! Hit me! Touch me, I dare you."