

PRE-FINALIZATION SERVICES

Meet Sharon

Using part 1 of Sharon's information:

- **Group 1: Identify ways to enhance attachment using the arousal/relaxation cycle.**
- **Group 2: Identify ways to enhance attachment using the positive interaction cycle.**
- **Group 3: Identify ways to enhance attachment using claiming behaviors.**

Part 1

Sharon, age eight, will soon move from her foster home to an adoptive family. She will be the youngest in a two-parent family, with two sisters, Aida and Hailey, ages 13 and 17. The father, Ron, is a clergyman; the mother, Kerry, is a teacher. Sharon's history reveals considerable emotional and physical deprivation, rejection, and physical abuse. She has been in and out of foster care since she was four years old. Sharon has experienced seven moves, including two returns to her birth parents' care.

In her foster home, Sharon is enuretic, both at night and during the day. A medical work-up was negative. Sharon has many fears, including fear of the dark, sirens, and new situations. She is prone to night terrors and takes a long time to calm down. Her foster mother often finds herself sleeping on the top bunk in Sharon's room to comfort her. Sharon becomes excessively upset when family members tease each other or rough-house.

Although there is no known history of sexual abuse, Sharon demonstrates sexually provocative behavior. She raises her dress in front of men and boys, and she asks them openly if they want to go to bed with her.

Sharon has difficulty telling the truth. She often lies about her misbehaviors. At other times, she tells meaningless lies, such as saying that peas are her favorite vegetable when, in fact, she does not like them at all. She frequently brings home small objects (i.e., pencils, hair clips, etc.) from school saying either that she "found" them or that "a friend gave them to me."

Although academically at grade level, Sharon has many gaps in basic knowledge. She does not always complete her school work and may "forget" to turn in work she has completed. Homework is a challenge for her and usually it ends up with her having a "meltdown". She reads above grade level, but she has difficulty in math. Her play skills are poor and she has difficulty keeping friends as she is hypersensitive and feels they are always rejecting her.

Sharon has excellent self-care skills. She generally shows appropriate affect and is outgoing and affectionate. Sometimes she is inappropriately affectionate with strangers. She is very clingy and wants to sit on her foster mother's lap all the time. She becomes distressed when the foster mother has to leave the house and will stare out the window or cry by the door.

At times, she is able to talk openly about feelings, and tells of many ways that she and her present foster family have fun together.

Which of Sharon's behaviors (described in part 1) are related to her traumas (described in part 2)?

Part 2

Sharon's mother, who was homeless and often used drugs, does not know who Sharon's biological father is. She would often leave Sharon with other people, sometimes strangers at the homeless shelter.

Sharon's first placement into foster care noted that she was failure to thrive. After two foster care placements (an emergency home, then a traditional foster home), she was returned to her birth mother around 2 1/2. By this time, mother had worked on her sobriety and was in a serious relationship with a man she met at the rehabilitation center. Apparently, there was a great deal of domestic violence in the home.

When mother's boyfriend physically abused Sharon, she was removed again at age four. She returned to foster care, however, her foster mother fell ill after three months and Sharon was moved to another home. Sharon again had to move when she was physically abused in this foster home.

Mother regained custody of Sharon at age six but began neglecting and ignoring her when she got a new boyfriend. Sharon was found alone at home, after spending a week by herself when mother and boyfriend went on vacation. Sharon was placed in foster care again and the agency was granted PC without any challenge by mother.