

Sample Case

Problems/Symptoms: Robert is 9 years old. He is living with his aunt and uncle who are a foster/adoptive placement. He was discharged 4 months ago after spending 10 months in residential care (in another state). He is in fourth grade in the Structured Behavioral Skills Program at his elementary school. There was a honeymoon period after discharge from 10 months in residential care, but behaviors are beginning to escalate. He struggles socially and claims the other children don't like him. He sometimes gets into physical altercations with other children. He is demanding, he won't listen or follow directions, and he throws fits when his aunt or uncle say no. In the mornings, he refuses to cooperate with getting ready for school or eating breakfast. He says rude and mean things and throws fits. He won't talk about any of his past. He refers to his biological parents by their first names and he calls them "stupid" and "bad."

Robert was removed from bio parents at age 8 after a day care provider observed bruises under his clothing. He was then placed with his aunt and uncle. He was exhibiting severe behaviors. He was pulling his pants down in public, using profanity, and breaking things. He was aggressive and out of control at school and home and was placed in residential care. He was 4 ½ hours away and his aunt and uncle visited him every other weekend.

Robert sees a psychiatrist for medication and an endocrinologist due to hormone imbalance. He has underarm and pubic hair from early sexual stimulation.

History: Robert lived with the aunt and uncle from 3 months to 3 years. It was a voluntary placement. The bio parents asked for custody when he was 3, and afterwards did not allow the aunt and uncle to visit. The father is schizophrenic and drug addicted. The mother is bipolar and drug addicted. The bio parents allegedly abused all the children sexually, physically, and emotionally and have lost them all at this time. Robert told his therapist in residential care that he was sexually abused daily by both parents. When CPS was called by Robert's day care provider, they discovered he was bruised head to toe. Robert was not allowed to sit on the furniture or in the bed. When he was 3 ½ months old he had a broken arm. Cause was not known.

Strengths/enjoyable activities: Robert loves to be outside with the four wheeler. He loves football, although he is not coordinated. He loves video games. Robert loves to help out. If someone drops something, he is eager to pick it up for them. He loves the outdoors. Robert loves music. If he hears any music he stops everything to listen.