



County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

DEBRA ZANDERS-WILLIS, DIRECTOR

8965 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

Date: _____

To: Resource Parent

From: Placement Staff

Trauma-Informed Transition for All Children

To lessen the trauma for children coming into your home, we request that you call the birth parents the first day the child arrives in order to help you to learn about the child and their needs, and begin establishing a relationship with the parents.

If needed, these are some speaking points that can help you to get that first conversation started:

- Reassure the parents that you are not here to judge them.
- Reassure the parents that you are not replacing them as the parents.
- Explain to the parents that you are here to care for their child the best you can.
- Acknowledge that they (the parents) are the expert on their child.
- Ask them to help you learn about their child.
- Ask them to tell you about their child. Example question, “What can you tell me about Johnny?”
- You can use the ALL ABOUT ME form (included in your placement packet) as a guide in this conversation.
- Let the parents know that their child will benefit if they know that the parents and the caregiver have a positive relationship.

Having this conversation with the parents on the first day their child is placed with you will ease the parent’s fear about who is caring for their child. Additionally, you will be able to learn more about the child and their family, which will help you to provide the best possible care. Other Resource Families like you report that making this early call has resulted in decreased behavioral issues for the children, particularly when the children are aware that you and their parents are working together as a team. Included in your

placement packet is a brochure that details information about trauma and the effects on children. Thank you for taking this extra effort, and for all you do as a resource parent!