

## **ABC for Visitation Commenting Following the Lead Worksheet**

### **What would you say?**

*In this section, think of a comment that would be appropriate in the given situation. In one of these examples, the birth parent is leading and not following. If you think the birth parent is leading, note that and chose not to make a comment. What could the parent do instead?*

1. Child waves at birth parent. Birth parent smiles at child and waves back.
2. Child wanders around the room, saying “cookie.” Birth parent watches child with a smile, and repeats “cookie” to him.
3. Child builds a tower out of blocks. Birth parent looks at child and comments, saying “Wow, what a big tower you’re building!”
4. Child holds out two yellow blocks and says, “red”. Child then bangs both blocks together. Birth parent shakes her head and corrects him, saying that it is actually yellow.
5. Child hands birth parent a toy truck. Birth parent reaches out to take the toy and says “Thank you!”
6. Child points to a doll on the table. Birth parent notices what child is pointing to and brings him the doll.
7. Child knocks over tower of blocks and birth parent says “uh oh!” and laughs.

**Which is the best?**

*In this section, choose the **best** comment.*

**Situation 1**

*Child picks up a block and pretends it is a telephone. Birth parent laughs and plays along by picking up a block and saying “hello?” into it. **Foster parent says:***

- a) “Great job! I love how you did that! Playing telephone with your child can be such fun.”
- b) (Directed at child) “You just love when mommy plays with you, don’t you?”
- c) “Awesome following his lead, playing his game! He is going to feel so important.”

**Situation 2**

*Siblings are fighting over a toy. Birth parent stops the fight, and tells them to apologize to each other. **Foster parent says:***

- a) “Great job! You did a good job stopping that fight, reading their signals.”
- b) “As parents, sometimes we have to set limits. Good job stopping their fight.”
- c) No ABC-V comment is needed here—this isn’t a following the lead behavior.

**Situation 3**

*Child says “bottle!” repeatedly and points at his bottle on the table. Birth parent gives it to her and smiles at her. **Foster parent says:***

- a) “Wow—great responding to her signals!”
- b) “Good following her lead right there. She pointed at the bottle and you got it for her. This is going to show her that she has an effect on her world.”
- c) “Perfect! It’s so important to respond to hunger cues so quickly. I’ve noticed she can be a hungry girl!”