

## Practice Vignette 1 “DEONTE”

Deonte is a seven-year-old, African-American boy currently living with his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. McCartney, for the past month. This is Deonte’s fourth placement since coming again to the attention of DCFS two years ago when his mother, Nakkita, left Deonte unsupervised throughout the night. Protective services were notified when building maintenance staff where Nakkita was residing with her paramour discovered Deonte home alone. Additionally, Deonte had several cigarette burns in various stages of healing on his hands and feet. Deonte was placed with his maternal grandmother who acknowledged her daughter had a long history of “problems with crack and nasty men.” Deonte was soon placed with his maternal aunt after his grandmother became seriously ill and was diagnosed with stomach cancer and died within five months. Deonte was removed from his maternal aunt’s care within seven months after she was injured as a result of an incident of domestic violence when her paramour stabbed her with a knife. Deonte witnessed the abuse of his maternal aunt and he was placed in traditional foster care after the maternal aunt did not press charges against her paramour and resumed living with him. No other relatives were identified and he was placed in traditional foster care.

Deonte lived with his first foster parent, Ms. Kessler, for a period of nine months until she requested his removal after he became increasingly aggressive at school when he pushed a child on the school bus and also pulled a chair out from underneath another peer in the lunchroom. Deonte was also aggressive in her home with other foster children including pushing them, pulling their hair and stabbing one of them with a fork during an argument at dinner.

Nakkita has rights of visitation and has made contact with Deonte on a few occasions during the past year. She is upset about his current foster care placement with the McCartney’s and blames them for her limited contact with Deonte because they are Caucasian and trying to “brain wash” him into “being white.” She feels he should not have been placed with a Caucasian family nor made to attend a predominately white school. She does not believe he has any friends in his neighborhood who are African American. She feels his foster parents should have enrolled him in athletic extra curricular activities rather than the Cub Scouts and Sunday school through the church. She is upset the foster parents returned the Rap music CDs of Eminem and Ludacris which she gave Deonte during their last visit. She does not believe the McCartney’s are supportive of her relationship with Deonte and that they are trying to take him away from her. She feels it is too difficult to continue visitations with Deonte while he remains in that placement.

Nakkita has a serious substance dependence disorder and has not been consistent in the service plan which calls for weekly urine drops, out-patient drug treatment and regular attendance at Cocaine Anonymous meetings. Presently, she resides with various friends within the community but does not have housing of her own. Deonte’s biological father is unknown as Nakkita reports a history of prostitution (including one conviction) to support her substance addiction at that time. Deonte was born substance exposed and placed with his maternal grandmother while Nakkita was provided out patient services for chemical dependency. She complied with all aspects of the service plan and Deonte was ultimately returned to his mother’s primary care. Later, she resumed using crack cocaine after becoming involved with a substance-abusing paramour. She move in and out of her mother’s home and relied heavily on her to care for Deonte.

Deonte was transferred to River Ridge Elementary School when he began living with the McCartney’s. He is diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and is currently prescribed Ritalin while attending school. The McCartney’s are interested in providing permanency for Deonte should he be come available for adoption. They do not have children of their own or any other foster children currently in their care. They do not feel it would be safe to accept other children to be placed with them in order to concentrate on Deonte’s present behavioral needs. The McCartney’s report Deonte does not sleep well throughout the night and has been wetting his bed at least once per week since being placed in their care. Deonte states he likes the McCartneys and wants to remain with them. He likes the fact there are no other children in the home. He wants to become a fireman when he grows up just like Mr. McCartney.

## Recommended Scores for Deonte

<b>Trauma Experiences</b>		Community Life	2	Substance Use	3
Sexual Abuse	0	Relation Permanence	2	Developmental	0
Physical Abuse	2	Youth Involvement	3	Self Care	0
Neglect	1	Resiliency	3	Access to Child Care	0
Emotional Abuse	1	Resourcefulness	3	Family Stress	0
Medical Trauma	0			Acculturation	0
Natural Disaster	0	<b>Child/Family Acculturation</b>		Employment	3
Wit to Family Violence	2	Language	0	Education	0
Wit to Comm Violence	0	Identify	1	Financial Resources	3
Wit to Crime	2	Ritual	1	Community Connect	2
		Cultural Stress	1	Legal	2
<b>Trauma Stress Symptoms</b>		Knowledge congruence	0	Transportation	0
Adjustment to Trauma	1	Helpseeking congruence	0	Safety	3
Traumatic Grief	1	Expression of distress	0		
Intrusions	0			<b>Current Caregiver</b>	
Attachment	1	<b>Behavioral/Emotional Needs</b>		Supervision	0
Dissociation	0	Psychosis	0	Problem Solving	0
		Impulse/Hyper	2	Involvement in care	0
<b>Life Domain Functioning</b>		Depression	0	Knowledge	1
Family-nuclear	3	Anxiety	1	Organization	0
Family-extended	0	Oppositional	0	Social Resources	0
Living Situation	1	Conduct	0	Physical Health	0
Social-Peer	1	Anger Control	1	Family Stress	0
Social-Adult	0	Substance Use	0	Cultural Congruence	1
Developmental	0	Somatization	0		
Legal	0	Behavioral Regression	1		
Eating	0	Affect dysregulation	1		
Sleeping	2				
Medical	1	<b>Risk Behaviors</b>			
Physical	0	Suicide	0		
Dental	0	Self Injurious	0		
Sexual	0	Other Self Harm	0		
Daily functioning	0	Exploitation	0		
Living Skills	0	Danger to Others	1		
		Sexual Perpetration	0		
<b>School</b>		Delinquent Behavior	0		
Attendance	0	Runaway	0		
Behavior	1	Intentional Misbehavior	0		
Achievement	0	Fire setting	0		
Relation with teachers	0	Bullying	0		
<b>Youth Strengths</b>		<b>Permanency Plan Caregiver</b>			
Family-nuclear	2	Supervision	3		
Family-extended	3	Involvement	2		
Positive peer	2	Knowledge	2		
Optimism	1	Organization	2		
Decision-making	3	Problem solving	2		
Wellbeing	2	Social Resources	2		
Educational	1	Residential Stability	3		
Recreational	2	Physical Health	0		
Vocational	3	Mental Health	0		
Talents/Interests	2				
Spiritual/Religious	1				