

11/25/2019: 2.1 & 2.2 & 6.2: It is the end of the month, which at DCS means ensuring we have had a face to face interview with all of our clients on our case load this week. I was given the opportunity to interview several children this week, demonstrating appropriate interviewing skills and culturally competent skills as our clients come from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds. One client in particular stood out. She was not pleased to see us, which she made known by throwing her head back, rolling her eyes, and letting out an exasperated sigh as she walked down the stairs to join us in the school library. "I thought I was finished talking to ya'll", she said, "No one is listening to me anyway". I gave her a sympathetic smile as my instructor asked her the first few questions we ask each child. I clarified that each month our case is open, we are required to see her, and proceeded to ask her some follow up questions. I quietly listened as she spoke, effectively establishing rapport by initiating empathy and understanding regarding her concerns. I presented myself as a learner to this young client, engaging her as an expert of her own experience and actively listening as she expressed her frustrations with her current living situation and the court system as well as her concerns regarding the future of herself and her family. I maintained eye contact and continued to ask open questions, ensuring her that we cared for her well-being and that her feelings and concerns mattered. At the end of our interview, my instructor and I each assured her that we were advocating on her behalf and to be sure to contact us if anything came up or if she needed anything. She seemed much less hostile at the end of our meeting, and it is my hope that we are able to continually implement interventions within her family that will enable our young client to be reunited with them.