

Sample Youth Scenario and Action Plan



Youth Scenario

Youth's Name: Jason

Age: 12

Ethnic Background: Caucasian & Native American

Brief Case History:

Jason is a 12-year-old with significant cognitive disabilities, which affect his ability to learn, communicate, and engage in everyday activities. He has been living with his current foster parents, the Thompsons, for the past 14 months. Before coming into foster care, Jason lived with his biological mother, who struggled with mental health challenges and substance use disorder, impacting her ability to provide stability and meet Jason's needs.

Jason entered foster care due to concerns about neglect and safety in his home environment. His case has been more complex because of his cognitive challenges, which make it harder for him to express his needs and understand the process of being in foster care. Despite these challenges, Jason has made great progress in his foster home. The Thompsons are actively involved in his life and have been working to ensure that he receives the necessary services, such as educational support and therapy. Jason has a strong connection with his foster parents, especially with his foster mother, who he refers to as "Mom." While he has some distant family members, including a cousin who lives out of state, his connections to his biological family are limited, and his mother is not currently able to be actively involved in his life due to her ongoing struggles.

Current Situation:

Jason is in a stable, nurturing foster home with the Thompsons. They are committed to helping him thrive and have arranged for specialized educational support, including speech and occupational therapy. Jason enjoys spending time with his foster family, particularly caring for the family pets, which brings him joy and helps him build responsibility and connection.

While Jason is becoming more aware of his situation, he sometimes experiences confusion about his family and future. He has difficulty fully understanding permanency, but he has formed a strong attachment to the Thompsons and often expresses a preference for staying with them. He has not explicitly stated a desire for adoption but shows comfort in remaining with the Thompsons and values his sense of stability with them.

Permanency Desires:

Jason's permanency plan involves both legal permanency and meaningful, lifelong connections. Although Jason may not fully grasp all the aspects of adoption, he has consistently shown that he wants to remain with the Thompsons, who have expressed interest in adopting him. However, they have concerns about his long-term care needs, particularly as he grows older and navigates the challenges associated with his cognitive disabilities.

Jason has limited contact with his biological family, and his relationship with his mother is strained. However, the importance of maintaining connections, whether biological or through other significant relationships, is emphasized in his permanency plan. This may include continued involvement with his foster family, school, community supports, and professionals who have played a key role in his life, such as his therapist and school social worker.

Action Plan

INSTRUCTIONS: Please fill in all columns below for each recommended action plan strategy.

Strategy #1: Increase belonging & identity as part of permanency

Actions <i>(List specific tasks)</i>	Anticipated Barriers to Implementation	Plan to Overcome Identified Barriers	Target Completion <i>(month/year)</i>	Person Responsible
1. Identify Jason's specific tribal affiliation	Contact with family may be difficult	Use ICWA procedures; directly reach out to ICWA specialist for all tribes identified as possibility	Within 1 month	Caseworker & YCPRT Facilitator
2. Incorporate Indigenous teachings into Jason's processing around permanency	Lack of knowledge with professionals	Engage with Native practitioner to support and coach	Within 1 month	Caseworker, YCPRT Facilitator, Therapist, Thompsons
3. Create a "Belonging Bundle" (Lifebook, scrapbook, pouch, drum) with Jason that includes photos, symbols, and stories,	Clarity on guiding the process, Jason's understanding	Move at Jason's pace, offer variety of methods	Starting next week, ongoing development	Caseworker, Therapist, Thompsons
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Action Plan (Continued)

INSTRUCTIONS: Please fill in all columns below for each recommended action plan strategy.

Strategy #2: Understanding Permanency & Expanding Supports

Actions <i>(List specific tasks)</i>	Anticipated Barriers to Implementation	Plan to Overcome Identified Barriers	Target Completion <i>(month/year)</i>	Person Responsible
1. Facilitate Tree of Life with Jason	Jason's expression of understanding	Move at his pace, identifying components individually and adjusting language as needed	Within 1 month	YCPRT Facilitator and Thompsons (with Jason)
2. Re-engage extensive family search and engagement, developing a Roadmap To Family	Difficulty in identifying natural supports due to limited family connections	Refer to KTF Specialist for focused family engagement	Referral by Next Week	Caseworker & YCPRT Facilitator
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