



Caregiver Scenarios

Unit One—Lesson One *The Important Role of the Caregiver*

Scenario 1

David is two years old and is starting his first day at Aria's day care center. As David approaches with his father, Aria greets them and stoops down to look David in the eyes. She smiles and tells him her name.

As David's father leaves, Aria shows David around the room and explains the rules of behavior. She introduces David to the other two-year-old children and asks him to choose a toy he would like to play with until snack time. David chooses a toy that another toddler is playing with and he grabs it from him. Aria scolds David in a loud voice and tells him to apologize to the other child.

David begins to cry. She comforts him and asks him what is wrong. He is crying too hard to answer, so she sits him down in a chair and tells him he can play when he is ready stop crying and start acting nice.

Scenario 2

Aaron is six weeks old and is being cared for by his aunt, Marion, while his mother works three days per week. Aaron gets fussy around 3:00 p.m. and tends to cry non-stop until his mother picks him up after work. Aaron spits up quite a bit when he is fed. Marion makes a note to mention this to Aaron's mother; it could be a problem with acid reflux.

Today, Marion has noticed that Aaron refuses to take the bottle and cries more than usual. She checks to make sure he is dry and that he does not have a fever. She tries to get him to look at a mobile in his crib and she holds a mirror to his face, hoping to distract him, but neither of these is working. Aaron continues to cry. In frustration, Marion goes into the other room to wait for him to stop crying.

Scenario 3

Rachel is three years old and loves to play with her caregiver, Patricia. Patricia is the day care provider for eight children. Rachel likes to follow Patricia around and help her take care of the infants in Patricia's care. Rachel tends to be whiny around the other children. She gets angry easily if she does not get her way.

One day Patricia notices that Rachel has been taking the snacks away from the little girl she sits next to during snack time. Patricia explains to Rachel that she is not allowed to take other children's snacks or food at any time. She tells Rachel that it is important to not take other people's food.

Rachel replies that she is hungry. Patricia explains that if Rachel is still hungry after her snack, she should let Patricia know, so Patricia can give her some more.

Later that day, Patricia sees that Rachel is angry over a toy that someone else has and that she wants. Patricia asks Rachel why she is angry. Rachel explains that she wanted to play with that toy. Patricia responds by saying that she understands what it is like to want something that someone else has, but that Rachel needs to be patient and she can have a turn with the toy later. She gets Rachel interested in another activity.

Scenario 4

Jordan is caring for three children at the home of his neighbors: Nick (18 months), Carl (three years old), and Jessica (six years old). Jordan has decided that going to the park down the street would be a good way to spend the afternoon. Jordan announces the plan right after lunch. He tells Carl and Jessica to get their shoes and jackets on while he changes Nick's diaper and gets him ready to be put into the stroller.

Carl is tired after lunch and wants to stay home and watch TV. Jordan tells him it's time to get going and he can watch TV later. After Jordan changes Nick's diaper and has him ready to go, he notices that Carl is still putting on his shoes. Carl is just learning how to put on his shoes and wants to show Jordan. Jordan tells Carl that they do not have time for that. He puts Carl's shoes on for him. Carl becomes angry, begins to cry, and pulls off his shoes. Jordan becomes angry and tells Carl that if he does not keep his shoes on, he cannot come to the park. Carl is glad to be able to stay home and watch TV, not fully understanding that he will be left alone and might become afraid.

Jordan puts Carl in front of the TV to watch a half-hour show, and decides that he will take Nick and Jessica down a couple of houses and then check back to see if Carl changes his mind while they are gone. In the mean

time, the children's mother calls and Carl answers the phone. She is very concerned that Jordan has left Carl alone while he brought the others to the park.

Scenario 5

Juan is six months old and goes to a day care program each day. Juan is a good-natured infant and very easy to care for. When Juan's mother comes to pick him up from day care, she asks how Juan did. The provider explains that Juan slept most of the day in a swinging crib. She seems very pleased at how easy Juan is to care for. As Juan's mother gets home, she notices that Juan's head is beginning to get flat in the back. She realizes that Juan is spending most of the day sleeping, and this may explain the sleepless nights he has been having since beginning at day care.

