

Case Presentation Transcript

Guiding the Child, Teacher, Parents, and Grandparents Exercise

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Savannah is 8 years old and an only child. Her parents Tommy and April were divorced when Savannah was 4 years old. They divorced primarily because of Tommy's serious drug use. For about three years from 4 to 7, Savannah lived with her mother. Recently, due to her mother marrying a man with three children of his own, the decision was made to have Savannah live with her father (clean and sober for 2 years) and his parents Bob and Louise.

Her mother April does make planned visits to see Savannah at least once a week. However at the end of her visits, Savannah has a temper tantrum, says she doesn't like her mother, and this gets Tommy and his parents involved in a big scene filled with commotion. The commotion with visits has been going on weekly for three months now and feels like it's getting worse.

Savannah is in the third grade at a new school and the teacher has requested a parent teacher conference due to continued disruptive behavior in class and talking back to the teacher Ms. Hastings. Ms. Hastings believes that Savannah is a very smart child, however she has 21 other children and is getting so aggravated and annoyed she doesn't know what else to do. Ms. Hastings stated that throughout the day Savannah:

1. orders other child around (acting like she is in charge) of activities
2. disrupts by talking out of turn and
3. talks back to the teacher and is defiant if she doesn't want to do something.

The grandparents are having a difficult time with Tommy because they don't like the way he reprimands her and punishes her. She will talk back and have a temper tantrum and then he yells at her and sends her to her room. However because Bob and Louise believe that Savannah has had a rough start in life, she gets whatever she wants and kind of "rules the roost" when her dad is at work.