

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving environment.

Children's Administration is committed to partnering with parents to help them engage in service plans so that children have the opportunity to safely stay in their homes.

Partnering with Families for Children's Safety



To learn more about Solution Based Casework and what Children's Administration is doing to improve the outcomes for children, please email practicemodel@dshs.wa.gov.



Safe Kids, Healthy Families
through
**Solution
Based Casework**



Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Children's Administration

Children's Administration has begun a three-year effort to implement a new evidence-based practice model, **Solution Based Casework (SBC)**. This model identifies and builds on a family's strengths. An SBC evaluation in Kentucky showed:

- Families achieved significantly more case goals and objectives when SBC was used.
- Social workers who used SBC were more likely to meet face-to-face with families and service providers as a team.
- Social workers identified a significantly greater number of family strengths.
- Building on those strengths more frequently kept families intact with no increased risk to children.
- Foster parents felt more recognized for their contribution and they felt the agency was more responsive to their needs.



How does it work?

Solution Based Casework (SBC) is a family-centered approach to child welfare. Social workers are taught engagement skills, interviewing techniques, family life cycle development and relapse prevention frameworks. In their work with families, social workers:

- Focus on every day challenges the family faces, helping to find solutions to the situations the family is not handling well.
- Help the family understand what led to maltreatment and utilize a relapse prevention framework to prevent further maltreatment.
- Ensure the family feels their experience of the situation and their family dynamics are understood.
- Quickly build a consensus with the family and service providers on what needs to happen to reduce risk, protect children and achievable goals.
- Build on the reality that all families have had times when they have been successful.
- Document and offer encouragement for even the smallest improvements.

How will we know if it's working?

Children's Administration is teaming with Partners for Our Children (POC) to evaluate the impact of this new practice model on children and families, and the level of satisfaction for social workers. POC is conducting a baseline survey of social workers, supervisors, and families, and will repeat these surveys after SBC has been fully implemented.

Training and follow-up coaching will be ongoing over the next three years.

