

***The family had shown that they do know and understand what good parenting is...
But they don't do it consistently...***

Try the following:

- Look for and require consistency; it is common for parents who have received support and services such as parenting skills programmes to have knowledge of what good parenting is. Often parents can talk about what they should be doing with their children and a lot of the time they demonstrate an ability to provide good enough care, however they are not always able to do this consistently.
- Consider involving individuals who can act as role models to parents, preferably in the home. There may be resources within the extended family for this. The aim of this exercise would be to have someone who is able to spend significant periods of time in the home assisting and guiding parenting. It might mean helping a young mother or father to safely bath a baby or helping a family to understand the necessity for good hygiene in the kitchen.
- Keep the needs of the children in focus. Talk to the children and find out what their experiences are, e.g. what a day in their life is like (there are some examples included within this toolkit).
- When you know that parents can care adequately some of the time it becomes harder to remain objective and there could be a tendency to err on the side of optimism. Record carefully when the dips in parenting occur and compile chronologies of accidents and issues around poor supervision.
- Be mindful that children with disabilities and/or additional needs, and their families, are likely to require additional support.

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