

## **Working with New Couples**

1. New couples need to be able to teach.
2. New couples need to structure their home and schedule (safety and low tolerances).

If you get a new couple that is experienced you need to check the preceding two items in your first consultation or in-home observation.

- a. Ask “Where are you planning to have the bedroom or bedrooms for the program youth?”
- b. Ask “Where are your natural children’s bedrooms and play areas?”

By having low tolerances and easily enforced rules and boundaries of sleeping and play areas the safety of the natural children can be maintained.

The family needs to have a schedule broken down into no smaller than fifteen minute increments which outlines the day and includes: wake-up, chore check-off time, leave for school, arrive home from school, study time, evening chores, family meeting, bedtime, lights-off time.

Before youth arrive in the home, the consultant should practice each of the teaching interactions during the visit.

After youth arrive, the treatment parents need to do four roleplays per child per day and have the prompt sheet in front of them. Each roleplay should be done, having all steps in order and complete.

We need to have new couples, during their first month, receive training on the budget process.