

10 Observations by health staff

Date:

Dear Health Visitor/Health professional

I am the social worker for _____ and _____

As you probably know, they came into the care of the local authority and we are now making permanent plans for their future. One of the difficult decisions we have to make is whether the children are likely to do best if they are all placed together or in a particular combination: for example, sometimes with a group of four, it may be that the children might do best in pairs. It is our usual practice to plan for contact if children cannot be placed with all their siblings.

Given the importance of these decisions, I would very much appreciate any helpful observations you are able to provide, in particular the following aspects.

Based on your contact with the family:

Please highlight any significant points for **how each child was treated within the family** – including any differential treatment by parent/partner – please provide brief examples and approximate timing for your observations

Your observations – **how the children got on with each other** – citing any **positive behaviours** you observed (such as one child showing emotional warmth, helpful or protective behaviours). Please provide brief examples and approximate timing of when you noted this

Your observations – **how the children got on with each other** – citing any **negative behaviours** you observed (such as one child belittling, hurting or hitting a sibling). Please provide brief examples and approximate timing of when you noted this

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Thank you very much for your time and help

Yours sincerely

Name:

Title: