

Birth Through Three Parenting Time Tool – Suggestions and Ideas

In families where established concerns exist about parent safety, child safety, or the parent has no established caretaking relationship with the child:

General Suggestion:

Weekly, short period of time with possible provisions for supervision of parenting time, neutral/safe exchanges of the child, and/or review of provisions by Court if warranted.

For Example: Parent A shall be responsible for the care of the child at all times other than on **Sundays from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. each week.** (Optional) For a period of _____ weeks **Parent B's parenting time will be supervised** by _____. The exchanges for these parenting times shall occur in a public location. Parent A shall share all information regarding the child via e-mail only. This court shall hold a 30 minute status check hearing at the end of the _____ week period to determine when or if the parenting schedule shall be expanded.

For families where mental health or substance abuse concerns exist:

For families where there are attachment concerns, or the child is exhibiting persistent behavioral maladjustment:

General Suggestion:

Prioritize protection of the child's psycho-social and emotional development during the first three years of life. Ensure that at least one organized attachment relationship is supported between the child and Parent A even if that results in less parenting time with Parent B. Consider not only the number of overnights, but the spacing and frequency of transitions between homes, and the emotional difficulty to which the child will be exposed.

Anticipate changes in the parenting plan. Changes can be accommodated through a series of step-ups articulated in detail, to be implemented at a pace and level determined by the child's responses to each step, and each parent's ongoing ability to effectively enact the proposed plan individually and as a parenting team.

For Example: Parent A shall be responsible for the child's care at all times other than every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and every Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For parents working on improving attachment and parenting skills with Parent B:

General Suggestion:

Frequent consistent contact of several hours in length that allows for routine care to occur helps the child bond.

For Example: Parent A shall be responsible for the child's care at all times other than every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. when Parent B shall be responsible for the child's care.

Where concerns about coparenting exist or logistics dictate restricted parenting time:

General Suggestion:

Two periods of three to four hours and one 8 hour period spaced throughout each week.

For Example: Parent A shall be responsible for the child's care at all times other than every Monday and Wednesday from 3:00p.m until 6:00p.m and every Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. when Parent B shall be responsible for the child's care.

For high functioning, cooperative, actively involved parents:

General Suggestion:

Frequent consistent contact of several hours in length and an overnight allows routine care to occur helps to maintain bonded relationships.

For Example: Parent A shall be responsible for the child's care at all times other than every other Monday and Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00pm and every Friday overnight from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Generally, deference to parental discretion and joint decisions is encouraged.