

## Reflecting on Abuse and Neglect

### Braden and Bethany's Story: Part 5

Based on what you learned in this lesson and throughout this course, write a different ending for the Miller family. At each critical point in the family's story, think about what *could* have happened to change the family's trajectory. Describe the resources, supports, or conversations that might have made a difference for the Miller family. Try to think very specifically about what you could do for families in your program if any of these events occurred.

Date	Critical Event	What actions or community resources might have changed the story? What could have been done differently to support the family?
1 July	Braden (age 9) and Bethany (age 11) go to live with the Miller family as foster children. They join two biological children, Caleb (age 12) and Jonah (age 15), and a toddler who has been adopted by the family.	
23 July	Melinda Miller posts on her blog about the "war" in her home and using discipline to help children overcome their "evil."	
28 August	Max sees Caleb intimidate Braden. Max discusses his concerns with management, and the manager recommends monitoring Caleb's behavior more closely and to note any comments that might indicate a reasonable suspicion of abuse.	
8 Sept	Bethany tells a friend that she has been beaten by her oldest foster brother. The friend tells her mother, and the mother calls Melinda Miller. Bethany is out of school for a week and begins avoiding her friend.	
1 Oct	Neighbors hear a child crying for an hour and call the police.	

13 Oct

Bethany confesses to Sasha about the “obedience tests” that have become sexual. Sasha makes a report to FAP and law enforcement.

After an investigation, Melinda and Derrick Miller are arrested. All five children are removed from the home.