

STS Simulation Module Character Profile

Elementary Principal (Katie Anderson Simulation)

Demographics and Background

- You are the principal of the elementary school where Katie and Emily Anderson attend kindergarten and fourth grade respectively.
- Andrea Wilson, Katie’s kindergarten teacher, has good classroom management skills; however, she sometimes becomes “too involved” and worries unnecessarily about her students’ home lives.
- You are aware that she has been struggling more this school year than she has in the past. You have considered talking to her about her recent use of sick days. You suspect that she has been under personal stress, but don’t have any details.
- You noted that Ms. Wilson seemed agitated and distressed when talking with you about Katie Anderson’s disclosure.

Character Development Tips

- You respect Ms. Wilson as a teacher, and view her as one of your stronger teachers.
- You suspect that she is dealing with significant personal stressors that have impacted her performance this school year.
- You are concerned that she seems to have been unusually distressed by recent events involving Katie Anderson.
- You suspect that she may be overinvested in the family due to having taught both children.

Character Directions:

- Work to understand the source of Ms. Wilson’s current distress.
- Look for potential signs of secondary traumatic stress and/or implicit bias in your interaction with Ms. Wilson.
- Look for other risk factors/stressors that might increase Ms. Wilson’s vulnerability to secondary traumatic stress.
- Help Ms. Wilson become aware of and correct any potential biases that she might express regarding the case.
- Work with Ms. Wilson to identify strategies to help her manage and/or alleviate her current levels of distress
- Avoid making Ms. Wilson feel as though she is being judged for her reactions.