

Character Profile: Elementary School Counselor

Demographics and Background

- You are the school counselor in the elementary school where Katie and Emily Anderson attend kindergarten and fourth grade respectively.
- You spend 2.5 days per week in this elementary school, as well as 2.5 days per week in one of the middle schools in the district.
- One of your primary duties in the school involves organizing standardized testing for the students. You also are instrumental in transitioning the fifth graders into the middle school.
- You wish you could do more “real” counseling, but your schedule is very tight. However, each semester, you try to organize and run a small group for the students. Topics vary from year to year but often involve issues like anger management, social skills training, self-esteem building or life transitions.
- You know Emily Anderson because she was in your “Life Transitions” group two years ago during the time when her parents were divorcing. You know from the group that Melissa Anderson, the girls’ mother, has primary physical custody while, Doug Anderson, the girls’ father has visitation on Wednesday nights and every other weekend.
- You have had almost no contact with Emily’s younger sister, Katie, except when you met her at last year’s Kindergarten Roundup.
- You are aware that Doug drops the girls off on Monday mornings after their weekend visits, otherwise the girls take the bus. You are also aware that Carrie Taylor, whom the girls call “Aunt Carrie,” often picks the girls up after school when their mother is working.
- Although you aren’t typically involved, the school principal has implemented a policy that requires all teachers or school staff to discuss concerns about suspected child abuse or neglect with the principal prior to making any hotline calls.

Authority/Responsibilities

As an elementary school counselor you are expected to :

- Promote the safety and well-being of the children in your school
- Maintain working relationships among students, staff and parents
- As a mandated reporter, you must follow state laws and policies regarding situations of potential child abuse and neglect.