

Module 2: Essential Principles for Care

Handout U: Whom Do I Tell?

Theresa's Story:

Theresa is an active, curious, and lovable two-year-old. She is small and has mild developmental delays. When Theresa was nine months old, she was diagnosed with HIV infection; and when she was 15 months old, she was hospitalized with pneumonia and diagnosed with AIDS. She takes daily medication and stays healthy between brief periods of illness—in all, she's doing very well.

Up until now, you haven't told many people about Theresa's HIV/AIDS diagnosis. You want to protect her from discrimination and make sure that she has as normal a childhood as possible. The only other people so far that know are the doctors, nurses, and social worker at the clinic. Now you're enrolling Theresa in Early Head Start and you're thinking about who to tell about Theresa's HIV/AIDS.

The Head Start Agency Director

- Would you tell this person?
- Why or why not?

The Head Start Health, Nutrition, and Disabilities Specialists

- Would you tell these people?
- Why or why not?

Theresa's Head Start Classroom Teacher

- Would you tell this person?
- Why or why not?

Theresa's Head Start Classroom Aides

- Would you tell these people?
- Why or why not?

The parents of Theresa's classmates

- Would you tell these people?
- Why or why not?

Theresa's Early Intervention Home Visitor

- Would you tell this person?
- Why or why not?

Theresa's six-year-old brother

- Would you tell this person?
- Why or why not?

