

## Handout 3: Role Play: The Billing Family

### Facilitator's Instructions

Ask your group for volunteers to role play: 1) Ms. Ann Wilken, a family worker, who is meeting with the Billing family for the first time; 2) Mr. William Billing, a Head Start parent; 3) Mrs. Donna Billing, Mr. Billing's mother; 4) Jackie Billing, Mr. Billing's four-year-old son; and 5) Amanda Billing, Mr. Billing's teenage daughter. Distribute the role play name tags and scripts. Give the role players two to three minutes to think about their roles. Then, establish the scene in the Billing family's home. Tell the volunteer playing the role of Ms. Wilken to plan to take the lead in initiating conversation with the Billings. Refer remaining group members to handout 4, which provides guidelines for observing the role play. Allow about 15 minutes for the role play and 15 minutes for discussion. During the discussion, make sure all role players and observers have the chance to share their reactions to the role play.

### Role Play Scripts



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#### **Ms. Ann Wilken, Family Worker**

You are new to Head Start and very excited about being able to help families in your work. Last week you went to a workshop and learned about partnership talk, which you are eager to try out during your home visit with the Billing family today. You have never met the Billing family before, so you're not sure what to expect. However, by the end of today's visit, you want the Billings to see you as a supportive family partner.



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#### **Mr. William Billing, Head Start Parent**

Your wife left you and the children eight months ago for another man, which was a devastating family event. You find yourself overwhelmed with the job of being both mother and father to your children. You are barely able to make it through a day without thinking your children would be better off without you, too. You find yourself yelling at your children all the time over things that shouldn't really upset you and never upset you before your wife left. More than anything, you wish you could get yourself together and start having some fun with your children again. You are not looking forward to Ms. Wilken's visit today. You don't feel like talking to anyone, especially a total stranger from Head Start.



## Handout 3: Role Play: The Billing Family (continued)



### **Mrs. Donna Billing, Mr. Billing's Mother**

You are very concerned about your son, William, and your two grandchildren, Jackie and Amanda. Your son "just hasn't been right," since his wife left him eight months ago. You tried living with your son for awhile to help him out, but your arthritis flared up, making it impossible for you to do even the simplest household chores. On top of that, you couldn't stand to see your son flying into rages over your grandchildren every day. Now that you're back in your own home, you find yourself going downhill fast from all your worries. You asked to be included in Ms. Wilken's visit today, because you want her to know just how worried you are.



### **Jackie Billing, Mr. Billing's 4-year-old Son**

Your mother abandoned you eight months ago. Your dad says she ran away to be with another man, but you think she left because you caused her lots of trouble. You spend most days, even when you're at Head Start, wishing your mother would come back home. You also worry a lot about your dad. He gets mad at you every day, no matter what you do, and you worry about him leaving you, too. Your dad told you Ms. Wilken, a lady from Head Start, is coming to your house today and that you'd better be good.



### **Amanda Billing, Mr. Billing's Teenage Daughter**

Ever since your mother left eight months ago to live with another man, you have found life to be unbearable. You can't understand why your mother didn't take you and your brother with her. More than anything, you want to talk to your mother, but you don't know where she is. She hasn't even called to let you know she's thinking about you. Your dad refuses to help; in fact, he says he never wants to hear another word about your mother. When Ms. Wilken visits today, you want to ask her if she'll help you find your mother.

