

Scenario One: "A Baby Is Crying"

~~As you read the above different ways that a caregiver handles this situation, think about how you would rate her behavior.~~

The Situation:

Rosy, six months old, is just waking up from her nap and begins to cry. Joan, her caregiver has begun to dress Mark. She decides to let Rosy cry while she finishes dressing Mark (this takes about five minutes) and then picks Rosy up. In the meantime, Rosy's mother (Mrs. H.) has come early to pick up her daughter, and sees the incident. When Joan greets her, Mrs. H takes Rosy from her and holds her tightly. Rosy does not come to day care the next two days. When Joan calls to find out what is happening, Mrs. H says that Rosy will be back the next day but she doesn't return until the following Monday. By now, Joan is concerned, so on the day Rosy returns, she takes Mrs. H aside and asks why Rosy was out so long. Mrs. H. replies, "Rosy was upset. You didn't take good care of her."

Response X:

Joan is surprised and hurt. She feels she has taken very good care of Rosy. She replies, "I take good care of all my babies. I would never do anything to hurt Rosy." Mrs. H: "Last time, you let her cry too much." Joan thinks back to Rosy's last day: "I was dressing Mark. I only let Rosy cry a few minutes." Mrs. H: "You waited too long." Joan, a little annoyed now: "No, I didn't. I had to take care of Mark first. Besides, it doesn't hurt a baby to cry a little." Mrs. H. insists: "That's not good. In my country we always pick up the baby right away.

By now, Joan is really annoyed: "Mrs. H., in this country we do not believe in spoiling babies. It's good for Rosy to learn that an adult won't always come immediately when she cries." Mrs. H. looks upset but doesn't say anything more.

Joan decides that she has to do something at the center to insure that Rosy doesn't become too spoiled. She starts to let her cry a little longer before she goes to her, so that she can learn to wait. Rosy begins to cry more when her mother leaves her in the morning. Joan see this as evidence of Mrs. H's "over-protection", and continues with her plan of teaching Rosy it is ok to wait. Rosy begins to thrive less well, so Joan decides to speak with Mrs. H. again to find out what is going wrong at home.