

Appendix One: Case Study

Child separated from family

Adele is a 5-year-old female child removed from her family due to neglect. Her first language is Polish. Her mother's whereabouts is unknown. Adele has repeatedly said that she wants to see her father (she calls him 'tata'), and her maternal grandmother ('babka'). She cries at night calling out for them and has named 2 soft toys after them. Social workers held a meeting in which they decided that contact with these family members was not in Adele's best interests. It appears that the social worker has written in the meeting form that 'this child is too young to express a view'. In reviewing this decision and considering Adele's rights under the UNCRC what factors in the decision-making process do you need to consider and what articles might apply?