Justin

Justin is 14 years old, African American, in 9th grade and currently placed in your home. This is his 7th foster home placement. He has been in the system since age 4 when his parents’ rights were terminated due to chronic neglect.

Justin does have a maternal grandmother. Although she has not been an appropriate placement for him, she has had regular contact with Justin throughout his young life.

Justin’s foster home placement changes have occurred because of his behavior challenges. He has a history of school failure, disruptive behavior in the home and at school, running away, and socially isolating himself (school and home). He has also been a victim of bullying since his early school years. He has been in your home for about one year. He has recently been diagnosed with major depression and is currently undergoing psychotherapy/group therapy. During one of his sessions he was able to disclose that he is gay, and his group and therapist encouraged him to tell his family in an effort to gain support. During today’s visit with his grandmother Justin did tell her and she was not supportive. In fact she told Justin that she was going to cut off all contact with him from this day on.

Justin just returned to your home following the visit and he was devastated. During a conversation with you Justin said that the world would be a better place without him.

1. Identify the risk factors
2. Identify the protective factors
3. Practice asking the question