**Did You Know?**

From the moment of the initial contact with the family, the SSW and the department are obligated under federal and state law to make reasonable efforts to keep families intact whenever possible, and in removal situations, to make reasonable efforts to reunify children with their families. Reasonable Efforts is mandated by KRS 620.020:

“(11) ‘Reasonable efforts’ means the exercise of ordinary diligence and care by the department to...utilize all preventive and reunification services available to the community...which are necessary to enable the child to safely live at home;

The SSW documents reasonable efforts to provide a family with supports and services to avoid unnecessary separation of a child from the family or reunify the child with parent(s) and enable the child to safely live with the parent(s) at home; and The SSW is responsible for providing documentation to the court that reasonable efforts have been made.

Where Can SSWs Document In-Home Services and Assessments in their Case work?

The 5C’s:

- CQAs.
- Case plans.
- Contacts/ Service recordings.
- Court reports.
- Closure.

"Did You Know?" is brought to you weekly from the Coordinating Services for Children Workgroup.
If you would like more information, please contact the ODHC Branch by calling (502) 564-2147.