Children Are Not Recovery Monitors - Scenario Card Exchange

30 minutes | 3-10 people | Adults with trained group facilitation

Identify adult support responsibilities and avoid assigning children monitoring or emotional-care roles.

Open with choice - 3 minutes

Explain the purpose, privacy limits, and the option to observe, use fiction, adapt, or pass. Check access needs and group readiness; do not promise absolute confidentiality.

Meet the fictional case - 4 minutes

A fictional family has relied on a child to check whether an adult attended care. Ask what is known, what is assumed, and what the person in the case wants.

Practice: Card sort - 16 minutes

Identify adult support responsibilities and avoid assigning children monitoring or emotional-care roles. Using only the fictional case, make cards for the goal, a contextual barrier, an available support, an alternative, and a possible next step. Sort them into what is known, what needs checking, and what requires outside help; discuss cards that can fit more than one place.

Reflect and compare - 4 minutes

Which responsibilities need to return to adults and services? Ask what fits, what does not, and what external conditions or supports affect the options. No personal disclosure is required.

Close and integrate - 3 minutes

Invite an optional observation, support request, or small next step. Passing is welcome. Agree how to revisit questions and seek appropriate help outside the exercise.

Practice output

A card arrangement showing facts, questions, and support needs.

Scope and care

Use ordinary or fictional examples, not graphic substance-use stories or cue exposure. No competitive abstinence scoring, forced disclosure, or required pathway. These plans do not manage intoxication, overdose, withdrawal, or medication changes; follow individualized care and appropriate medical assessment. Joint exercises are unsuitable where coercion, violence, fear, or retaliation may be present; arrange private clinical assessment and appropriate support.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background references: GP01, GP02, GP03, RF-SUR. Full source links: library.morethantherapy.org/group-activities/GRP623