

## Vignette 2. Tomika

Tomika, 6 months old, is lying on her back, while drinking her bottle. On the sofa at Tomika's head, is her mother, Loretta, who is busy picking lint out of Tomika's hair. Nina, a home visitor meeting Loretta and Tomika for the first time, is sitting on a chair across from Tomika and Loretta. Loretta has told the worker who enrolled her in the home visiting program, that she is not sure she is a good mom but she is not sure she needs someone coming to the house. Loretta's mother, her older brother, his girl friend and their baby, the other members of the family, are in the adjacent kitchen and in and out of the room where Nina is visiting Tomika and Loretta.

Nina is concerned about the things she is hearing Loretta say to Tomika, who just lies quietly, looking at the ceiling and drinking her bottle. Loretta's voice is gruff and she is delivering one negative comment after the other to Tomika as she pulls small bits from Tomika's hair and gently combs the curls around her finger. "You stink." "Eat your food." "Your head looks like a dust rag." Loretta does not meet Nina's eyes and does not respond when Nina says she has a blanket and some toys in her bag. She has not looked at the program material that Nina has brought with her. She has answered some questions with one or two word answers. Nina is struggling to think of a way to begin a partnership with Loretta.

**Question 1:** What questions do you have about this situation?

**Question 2:** What do you think that Tomika is experiencing?

**Question 3:** What do you think Loretta is feeling?

**Question 4:** What do you think Nina is feeling? What do you do when you feel this way?

**Question 5:** What strategies would you use to develop a partnership with the mother in behalf of Tomika's social emotional development? How might these strategies impact the development of Fernando's social emotional development?