

FAMILY CONTACT

AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF FOSTER CARE

HOPE

Studies show successful reunification is directly linked to frequent and quality family contact that builds strong families and reduces re-entry into foster care.

BUILD BRIDGES

Maintaining relationships with children after reunification depends on building a positive relationship with their birth parents by supporting and encouraging family contact.

BOND

It is essential for children's emotional well being to maintain a relationship with their parents and family ties. Sometimes it takes months or years for a parent to develop new healthy patterns or break addictions. Family Contact Facilitators provide safety for children when the parent is in the healing process.

ROOTS

Even when reunification is not possible, research shows that youth want contact with their birth family including siblings, extended family and more. Family Contact equips youth with tools to navigate their birth family relationships, setting them up for success as an adult.

PARENTING OPPORTUNITY

Children have specific social, emotional, and developmental needs. When their parents are given the opportunity to practice new parenting skills in a safe supported setting it sets the family up for success.

NORMALCY

Family contact reduces a child's worries about their parent and provides opportunities for the child to participate in their family's normal cultural activities such as favorite meals, games, or songs.

WAYS FOSTER PARENTS CAN SUPPORT FAMILY CONTACT

ASK YOUR CASEWORKER WHAT IS APPROPRIATE

PRIORITIZE getting kids to frequent family contact

INVITE parents to help with homework over zoom

COMMUNICATE child's routines & grades

SEND and receive photos

INVITE parents to doctor appointments

BEFORE bed phone calls

LEARN how to facilitate family contact

INVITE parents to school activities

ENCOURAGE family contact for birthdays & holidays

INVITE healthy family & friends to child's activities

REQUEST a meet & greet with parents



COURTEOUS CURIOSITY PAVES THE WAY

To best support children, Foster Parents create an avenue of support by learning how to ask good questions to birth parents. This gives opportunities to support the child's safety, culture, and family connections.

MEALS Some of our favorite meals are... what are your child's favorite family foods?

ROUTINE What does your child's daily routine look like? How might we support a connection for you and your child keeping both family routines in mind?

COMFORT How do you comfort your child?

CELEBRATIONS Does your family celebrate birthdays? How do you celebrate them? We like to celebrate by...

LOVE How do you show love in your family?

CONNECTIONS Who are important people in your child's life that we can support continued connections with? (i.e. Aunties, grandparents, neighborhood friends)

VALUES What are your family values and how do you teach them to your children?

FAITH What faith or religious practices does your family participate in?

TRADITIONS Do you have any family traditions we can support? Some of our family traditions are...

HOLIDAYS What special holidays does your family celebrate? Is there an approved family-friend that can support that time with you and your child?

BEACON HILL

MAT-SU SUPPORTS AVAILABLE



TRAINING

The Family Contact Best Practices training equips foster parents with skills and tools to facilitate family contact.



CONSULTING

Troubleshoot and problem solve issues regarding family contact that foster parents experience.



LOCATION

Beacon Hill's Mat-Su Family Support Center offers a neutral and home-like setting 7 days/week 8am-8pm for family contact.



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