

# MOVING IN FOSTER CARE: A Journey of Loss and Hope



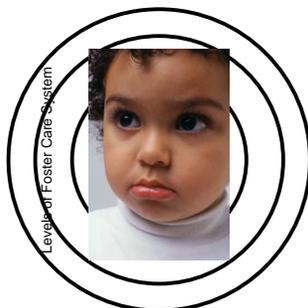
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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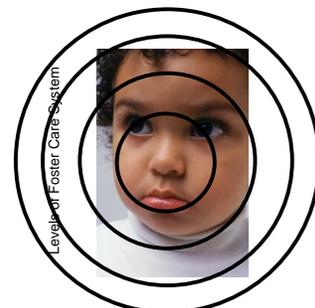
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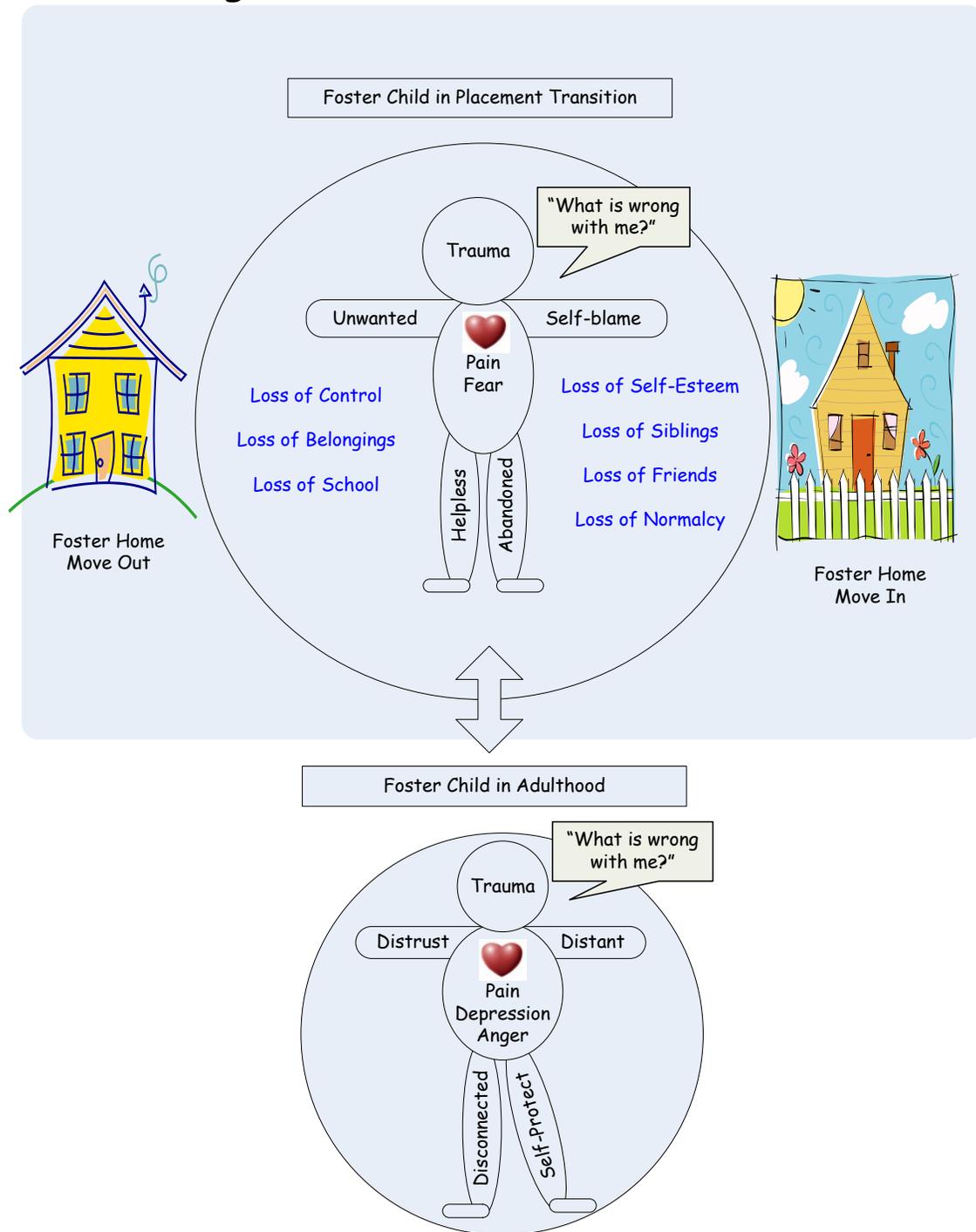


Putting kids' needs  
before system demands.



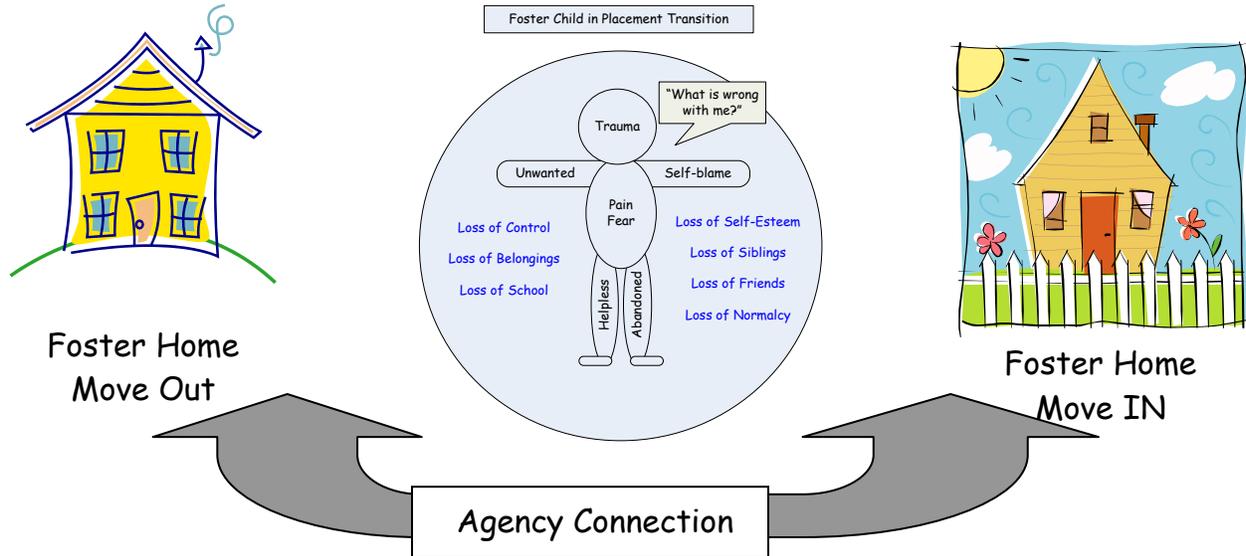
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# Picturing the Foster Child in the Transition of Moving from One Placement to Another



# Reducing the Harm of Moves

Fostering Connection: Mentally. Emotionally & Physically



## Old Foster Parents

### EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & RELEASE

- See the Move Through My Eyes Care, Support & Listen to Me
- Ask Me About My Hopes and Fears
- Help Understand/Express Feelings
- Talk About Having Mixed Feelings
- Understand My Mistrust

### INFORMATION

- Be Honest with Me
- Provide Accurate Information
- Be Informed About the Plan
- Explain to Me What to Expect
- Involve Me in Decisions
- Advocate for Me

### TRANSITION

- Give Adequate Notice (2 weeks+)
- Talk with My Future Family
- Support Me Visiting New Home

### FAMILIARITY

- Send All My Personal Belongings
- Tell New Home About My Routines
- Give Keepsakes/Photos of You
- Invite Me to Contact You
- Stay in Contact with Me

## Caseworkers

### EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & RELEASE

- See the Move Through My Eyes Care, Support & Listen to Me
- Ask Me About My Hopes and Fears
- Help Me Understand & Express My Feelings
- Talk With Me About Mixed Feelings
- Understand My Mistrust
- Additional Counseling

### INFORMATION

- Be Honest with Me
- Give Me Accurate Information About Move
- Have a Plan
- Explain to Me What to Expect
- Ask Me About What I Want/Expect
- Involve Me in Decisions
- Give Realistic Picture of Future Home

### TRANSITION

- Give Adequate Notice (2 weeks+)
- Match Me & New Foster Home
- Give Me Information About New Home
- Provide Pre-placement Visits
- Communication Between Caregivers

### FAMILIARITY

- Personal Belongings
- Support Maintenance of Familiar Routines
- Stay in Communication With Me
- Keep Familiar Supports:
- Siblings, School, Friends, Mentor, Counselor

## New Foster Parents

### EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & RELEASE

- See the Move Through My Eyes
- Welcome Me into Your Home Care, Support & Listen to Me
- Ask Me About My Hopes and Fears
- Help Understand/Express Feelings
- Talk About My Mixed Feelings
- Understand My Mistrust
- Help Me Feel Wanted
- Don't treat Me Differently

### INFORMATION

- Be Honest with Me
- Explain Your Rules & Expectations
- Be Informed About the Plan
- Ask Me About What I Want/Expect
- Involve Me in Decisions

### TRANSITION

- Meet & Visit Me Before Move In
- Talk with My Past Family
- Support My Past Home Connection
- Give Me My Own Space

### FAMILIARITY

- Personal Belongings
- Ask Me Routines, Likes & Dislikes
- Learn About My Birth Family
- Let Me Visit My Birth Family Soon
- Support Me Visiting Friends
- Keep Familiar Supports: Siblings, School, Counselor, Friends, Mentor



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# What can you do to help reduce harm of removal and placement moves for children?

