



Bridging the Gap of Separation Between Children and Their Families

A Continuum of Contact for FOSTER PARENTS



Family Participation

- Attend parenting classes with the birth parents
- Arrange family visits with the birth parents
- Welcome the birth parents into your home
- Include the birth parents in farewell activities
- Serve as support to the family following reunification
- Foster parents provide respite care to the birth family after reunification

Supportive Contact

- Attend trainings to learn how to work directly with birth parents
- Have a non-threatening attitude
- Meet with child's family at a visit
- Encourage the parents to phone the child
- Refer to the child as "your child" to birth parents
- Share child's life book with the parents
- Learn about, understand and respect the birth parents' culture
- Help the birth parents find community resources
- Transport the child to visits
- Share parenting information with the birth family
- Attend staffings, and court hearings
- Encourage/reassure reunification

Mentoring Contact

- Invite the child's family to attend school programs
- Give the parents verbal progress reports
- Ask the parents to come to appointments
- Review the child's visit with the parents
- Take/pick-up the child to/at the parents' home
- Foster parents transport the birth parents to meetings
- Assist in planning the child's return to the birth family's home
- Serve as the parents' mentor

Minimal Contact

- Have positive view of the child's family
- Talk openly with the child about their family
- Dress up the child for visit
- Exchange letters with the child's family via the case manager
- Foster parents hosts/arranges sibling visits
- Call the child's parents on phone
- Update the parent about how the child is doing
- Request pictures of the child's family to display in the child's room
- Give the parents pictures of the child
- Share copies of homework & report cards with the family
- Send snack/activity for visit
- Encourage the parent's progress
- Provide written information for case staffings or meetings
- Share monthly progress reports with the birth parents
- Request cultural info from the birth parents