Bridging the Gap of Separation Between Children and Their Families
A Continuum of Contact for FOSTER PARENTS

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

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

Supportive Contact
• Attend training to learn how to work directly with birth parents
• Have a non-threatening attitude
• Meet child’s family at placement
• Talk with parent at visit
• Encourage parents to phone child
• Refer to child as “your child” to birth parents
• Share child’s life book with parents
• Learn about, understand & respect the birth parents’ culture
• Help birth parents find community resources
• Transport child to visit
• Share parenting information
• Attend staffings, status reviews
• Encourage/reassure reunification

Minimal Contact
• Have positive view of child’s family
• Talk openly with child about family
• Dress up child for visit
• Exchange letters with child’s family via case manager
• Foster parents hosts/arranges sibling visits
• Call child’s parents on phone
• Brag to parent about child
• Request pictures of child’s family to display in child’s room
• Give parents pictures of child
• Share copies of homework & report cards with family
• Send snack/activity for visit
• Encourage parent’s progress
• Provide written information for status reviews
• Share monthly progress reports with birth parents
• Request cultural info from birth parents

Based on the work of Denise A. Goodman, Ph.D., “Working with the Child’s Family.”