



# 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

### 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

### 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

### 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