



Maintaining the Child's Connections

Preservice

Learner Guide

October 2022

Version 1.0



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Notes:

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

Learning Objectives

- Summarize the **importance of relationships** to children in care
- Identify the **C.A.R.E. guide** as Ohio’s recommended best practice in co-parenting and reunification efforts
- Discuss how to **support relationships** with other important people, including siblings

The Importance of Relationships

Relationships support development and lead to **better outcomes** for children in care.

By Ohio rule, it is the **child’s right** to have relationships with caring adults, and you have the **responsibility to support** these relationships.

Just like the plant needed its roots to survive, a child needs to **keep connection with their roots** to be healthy.



Connections with Parents

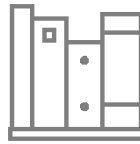
Benefits of maintaining the connection with the primary parents while the child is in your temporary care:

- Prevents a child from **feeling they must pick** between their parents and you
- **Reduces the trauma** of placement
- Allows the child to see firsthand the **efforts the parents are making**

How can maintaining connections with primary parents be helpful to the youth during their **transition out of care**?



Open Adoption Defined:



The **Ohio C.A.R.E. guide** (Co-Parenting and Reunification Efforts) will assist you in **partnering with the family**.

There are three phases of the guide:

1. **Pre-CARE** assesses your comfort level with partnering with the primary family

What is your **current comfort level**?

Notes:

Resources

Tips for Helping Children and Teens before and After Visits

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/family-dynamics/adoption-and-foster-care/Pages/Tips-for-Helping-Children-and-Teens-Before-and-After-Visitation.aspx>

Partnering with Birth Parents to Benefit Children

http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/resourceparentspartneringwithbirthparents.pdf

Foster Parent Guide for Maintaining Connections [Ohio C.A.R.E Resource Tool](#)