

NOAS

PreService:

Maintaining the Child's Connections

Learner Guide

Overview

- ✚ This course explores what happens during adolescence, including brain development, identity development, and life skills development and explores how learners can support adolescents through this period of development.

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

Open Adoption

- ✚ An arrangement in Ohio that allows birth parents and adoptive parents to maintain contact after the adoption.

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:

Pre-CARE

Assesses your comfort level with partnering with the primary family

CARE phase

- ✚ Includes initial and ongoing contact with the primary parents.
- ✚ Comfort Connection: What worries might the primary parents have about their child at this time? What information could you provide to help ease their worries?
- ✚ All About Me: What might you want to ask the primary parents about the child to help you better provide care?
- ✚ Visitations: How might you support children as they process complex feelings related to visits?

Post-CARE

- Includes being an ongoing source of support and information to the primary family.

Connections with Siblings and Other Important People

- Let the child in your home identify who the important people in their life are and how they want to maintain contact.
- It can be healing for a child to be with a sibling who has a shared experience. Consider taking a sibling group.
- Keeping important adults in the child's life are essential to the child's growth and ability to thrive.
- Supportive peers can help children feel a sense of belonging, learn social norms, and improve well-being.

What are ways to keep siblings connected if they cannot be placed together?

How will you commit to keeping siblings connected?

What impact might this have on your family when there are multiple siblings placed in different homes?

What are ways to keep children connected to important adults and peers?



NOAS
FOSTER ♥ CONNECT ♥ SUPPORT
Connections for youth - Support for families



CWTP

Ohio Child Welfare
Training Program

Resources

Tips for Helping Children and Teens before and After Visits

[Tips for Helping Children and Teens Before and After Visitation - HealthyChildren.org](#)

Partnering with Birth Parents to Benefit Children

[Resource Parents Partnering with Birth Parents.pub](#)