

Permanency Planning - Reunification

Partnering with Birth Parents to Promote Reunification

This factsheet explores what foster caregivers can do to work with the birth families of the children in their care to promote reunification. This may include actively communicating with the birth parents, the caseworker, and the agency; accessing help from a variety of sources; cultivating trust and compassion; and maintaining contact with families after reunification or other permanency.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2019). *Partnering with birth parents to promote reunification*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets-families-partnerships/>

Reunifying Families

Returning children home often requires intensive, family-centered services to support a safe and stable family. Services should be tailored to each family's circumstances and must address the issue(s) that brought the child and family into the child welfare system. The following resources offer an array of practices and strategies that support family reunification efforts in child welfare:

- [Engaging parents in reunification](#)
- [Assessing readiness for reunification](#)
- [Reunification with parents with substance use issues](#)
- [Reunification with parents affected by behavioral or physical health issues](#)
- [Reunification with parents who are incarcerated](#)
- [Reunification in families affected by domestic violence](#)
- [Preventing placement re-entry](#)
- [Reinstatement of parental rights](#)

Supporting Successful Reunifications

Safe and stable reunification does not begin or end with the return of children to the care of their parents. Child welfare agencies may find it challenging to help families achieve timely reunification while at the same time preventing children from reentering foster care. This bulletin offers information to help child welfare agency managers by providing strategies for achieving reunification and preventing reentry and includes examples of promising practices being implemented by States and localities.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2017). *Supporting successful reunifications*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/supporting-successful-reunifications/>

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