

Siblings

An Overview: What We Know About Sibling Relationships for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Growing bodies of research and data and practice experience have demonstrated the importance of maintaining sibling relationships and connections. This toolkit is organized into ten components based on a review of the literature and current practice.

National Center for Child Welfare Excellence

<http://www.nccwe.org/toolkits/siblings/overview.html>

Brothers and Sisters: Keeping Siblings in Foster Care Connected

During this 8-minute-and-47-second video, youth who have been involved with the child-welfare system discuss the importance of siblings and sibling connections.

Epic Ohana, Inc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9uoqOWHosg>

Elevating Connections

Elevating Connections is all about strengthening families! The sibling relationship is the longest relationship in most of our lives, at Camp To Belong we help brothers and sisters regain a lost sense of permanency and connection by strengthening their sibling relationships.

<https://www.elevatingconnections.org/programs.html>

Fostering Great Ideas: Sib-Link

Fostering Great Ideas improves the experience for every child in foster care. Knowing that losses multiply, and stress amplifies the longer a child stays in care, our goal is to provide support throughout the foster care journey, ultimately resulting in lives back on track. Sib-Link and other FGI programs have a referral process. Referrals can be made by various people: social service workers and supervisors, caregivers, CASA/GALs, attorneys, family group conference coordinators, and others knowledgeable of the situation.

<https://fgi4kids.org/>

Research on the Benefits of Keeping Siblings Together

This section presents research examining the importance of the bond between siblings and benefits of preserving sibling connections for children in foster care who are waiting for adoption.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/siblingissues.pdf#page=3&view=Legal%20framework%20for%20protecting%20sibling%20connections>

The Role of Judges in Implementing Foster Connections: Sibling Placement Provisions

This article includes an overview of the Foster Connections Act, outcomes for children, and judicial considerations.

American Bar Association & The Grandfamilies State law and Policy Resource Center
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol_32/january-2013/the-role-of-judges-in-implementing-fostering-connections--siblin/

Sibling Issues in Foster Care and Adoption

This bulletin explores research, intervention strategies, and resources to assist professionals in preserving connections among siblings placed in foster care or facing adoption. Sections address a legal framework for protecting sibling connections, the importance of siblings, sibling relationships in abusive/neglectful families, barriers to/benefits of placing siblings together, practices for keeping siblings together in placement, maintaining ties between separated siblings, sibling issues within foster and/or adoptive families, and resources for maintaining sibling connections.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2019). Sibling issues in foster care and adoption. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/siblingissues/>