FOSTER PARENTS
BRIDGING THE GAP OF SEPARATION BETWEEN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
• A CONTINUUM OF CONTACT •

• Exchange letters with the child’s family
• Call the child’s parent on phone
• Request pictures of the child’s family to display in the child’s room
• Give parents pictures of the child
• Share copies of homework and report cards with family
• Have a positive view of the parent
• Talk openly with the child about family
• Send snack/activity for visit
• Encourage parent’s progress
• Dress the child up for visit
• Provide written info for SAR
• Share progress reports with BP
• Host/arrange sibling visits
• Brag to the parent about the child
• Transport the child to visit
• Talk with parent at visit
• Encourage parent to phone
• Non-threatening attitude
• Meet the child’s family placement
• Refer to the child as “your child” to BP
• Share parenting information
• Attend staffings, SAR’s, reviews
• Help BP find community resources
• Encourage/reassure reunification
• Share child’s lifebook with parents
• Attend training to learn how to work directly with birth parent
• Learn about, understand and respect the birth parents’ culture
• Request cultural info from BP
• Take/pick up child to/at parent’s home
• Serve as parent’s mentor
• Review child’s visits with parent
• Give parent’s verbal progress reports
• Ask parent to come to appointments
• Attend training to learn how to work
• FP transports BP to meetings
• Invite BP to attend school programs
• Assist in planning child’s return home
• Welcome parents into your home
• Attend parenting classes w/parent
• Arrange family visits w/parents
• Serve as support to family following reunification
• Foster parents provide respite care
• Include BP in farewell activities

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SOCIAL WORKERS
BRIDGING THE GAP OF SEPARATION BETWEEN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
• A CONTINUUM OF CONTACT •

- Encourage exchange of information between BP and FP
- Have BP/FP exchange pictures
- Talk positively about BP to FP
- Talk positively about FP to BP
- Schedule regular/frequent visits
- Arrange phone contact between FP/BP
- Share all information with FP & BP
- Encourage FP to host sibling visits
- Serve as liaison between FP &
- Describe FP in non-identifying terms at placement
- Debrief FP regarding BP problems / needs
- Exchange monthly progress reports with BP/FP
- Serve as positive role model to FP and BP
- Assist FP/BP in understanding cultural differences
- Help FP understand the BP’s needs

- Insure that FP/BP attend meetings
- Facilitate talk between BP/FP
- Have FP and BP meet at placement
- Ask BP/FP to work on lifebook together
- Encourage BP to permit FP to call
- Set clear boundaries for contact
- Facilitate the development of a positive relationship between birth parent and foster parent
- Arrange an icebreaker for BP/FP
- Participate in visitations

- Assist BP in welcoming FP to BP home
- Encourage FP to transport child to home
- Permit FP to invite BP to attend all appts.
- Encourage FP to transport BP to agency meetings and child’s appointments
- Encourage FP to allow BP to call FH
- Assist BP in managing conflict
- Mediate and resolve conflicts
- Talk openly with BP/FP about their concerns

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