

FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAMTM



Brief History of the Family Connections Program

- Connections Meetings
- Family ConnectionsProgram
- House Bill 2525
- Signed into law 2020
- Administered by Amara





FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM™

"Wherever there is a human being there is an opportunity for kindness."

- ► Program Elements
 - Connections Meetings
 - Peer mentor support
 - Focused on building and maintaining child and family centered relationships.

Who Is Involved?

- Parent Parent of a child who is currently in foster care
- Caregiver Foster parent or relative caring for the parent's child while experiencing foster care
- Parent Ally A parent who has successfully navigated the child welfare system and can coach other parents involved in child welfare through the steps to reunify with their child
- Caregiver Mentor Current or former foster parent who has had relationships with parents while fostering children



How It Works

- **Step one:** Parents and caregivers each work with a peer mentor through the process. Parents are matched with a Parent Ally. Caregivers are matched with a Caregiver Mentor.
- Step two: Parents and caregivers talk with their mentors in preparation for the first Connections Meeting
- Step three: The Parent Ally and Caregiver Mentor work together to lead a Connections Meeting where the parent and caregiver will meet for the first time.
- Step four: Parents and caregivers talk with their mentors after the initial meeting to receive additional support.





WHAT IS A CONNECTIONS MEETING?



THAT WAY

ANOTHER WAY

INDIVIDUAL OPTIONS



Current Location

King County Family Treatment Court



Coming Soon...

- Mason County Family Reunification Court
- Okanagan County Family Treatment Court
- Grays Harbor Family Treatment Court
- Pierce County
- TBD

Resources Available Now

Family Connections Program Videos and Discussion Guide

Family Connections | Amara

(amarafamily.org)





How can you help?

- Recognize and call out efforts to maintain connections for children
- If FCP is available and appropriate, let parents
 & caregivers know about the program

 (www.fcpwa.org)
- Maintain model fidelity

FOSTERING PROGRESS REPORT

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION SINCE LAST COURT HEARING

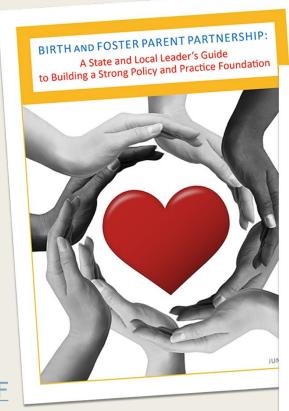
Name of Child in Care
Name of Foster Parent/Caretaker
Please list any concerns regarding the education of the child.
a) Did you advise DCFS worker and biological parents of any educational issues? No
 Please list any medical conditions (physical or mental) of the child which need to be addressed.
a) Did you advise DCFS worker and biological parents of any medical issues?
4. If you have participated in visits with the biological parents, briefly explain whether the visit was a success and whether any issues need to be addressed.

Birth and Foster Parent Partnership Tools

JUNE 2020

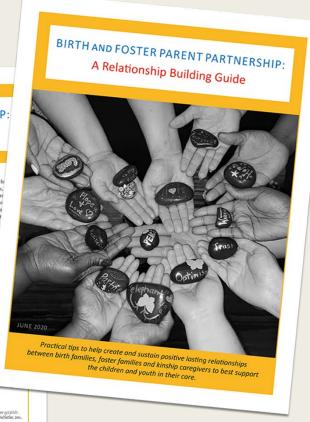


Birth and Foster Parent
Partnership (BFPP) | CTF
Alliance



BIRTH AND FOSTER PARENT PARTNERSHIP: **Executive Summary** The Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) was fo 2016 to support a national movement of birth parents, families, kinship caregivers and staff focused on impre relationships, building connections and using their co Children and youth will thrive when voices to transform systems, culture, policies and pra the important adults in their lives build improve outcomes for children and families. The part relationships and institute policies and being managed through a collaboration between the Trust Fund Alliance, Youth Law Center's Quality Pare Initiative and Casey Family Programs. Since 1979, the Children's Trust Fund Alliance and it have worked with communities and multiple system strengthen all families. Since 2006, the Alliance has and partnered with networks of parents to elevate to policymakers and to join with them in developi and practices that help support families and lead outcomes for children and youth. Child welfare sy been strong partners to the Alliance while incorp strategies to transform their work with parents. In 2008, Youth Law Center founded a research-h initiative - the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI quality parenting in child welfare. Through QPI agencies partner with parents, caregivers and y practices and policies that support excellent pr children in foster care. One of the first issues i early OPI sites as a barrier to providing excellchildren was the absence of practices and pol co-parenting among birth and foster parents. decade, QPI sites across the country began ir practices and programs to support co-paren their systems slowly begin to transform. For more information about the Quality Parenting Initiative see qpiqhids, org or No Place Like Home: A Review of the Quality Parenting Initiative, 200.

Executive Summary 1



FOR MORE INFORMATION,

WWW.FCPWA.ORG

OR CONTACT KATIE BIRON, PROGRAM MANGER KATIEB@AMARAFAMILY.ORG



FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM™

creating partnerships, supporting families



Yuvia's Story

https://youtu.be/bdTyJU05Vqw