



FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM™



Brief History of the Family Connections Program

- Connections Meetings
- Family Connections Program
- 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.”

- Seneca -

- ▶ 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



THE CONNECTIONS TEAM

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?

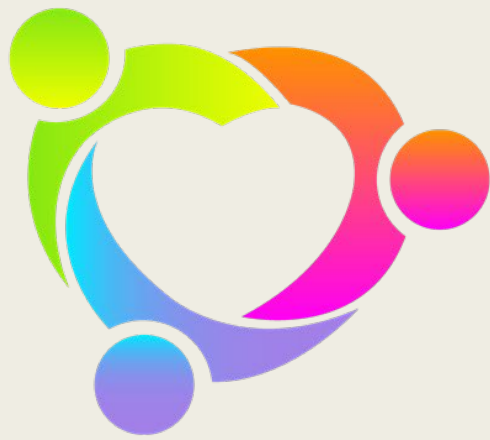


THIS WAY

THAT WAY

ANOTHER WAY

INDIVIDUAL OPTIONS



FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM™

Current Location

- King County Family Treatment Court



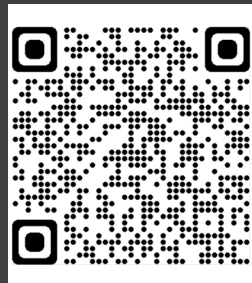
Coming Soon...

- 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
\(amarafamily.org\)](https://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

1. Please list any concerns regarding the education of the child.

a) Did you advise DCFS worker and biological parents of any educational issues?
_____ Yes _____ No

2. 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?
_____ Yes _____ No

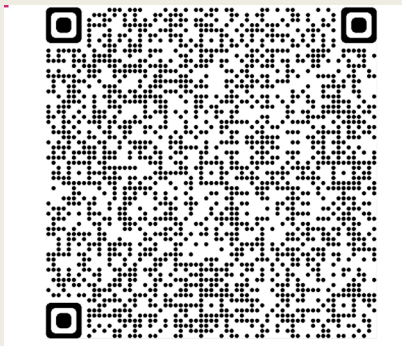
3. Are you maintaining open and viable communication with the child's biological parents?

_____ Yes _____ No

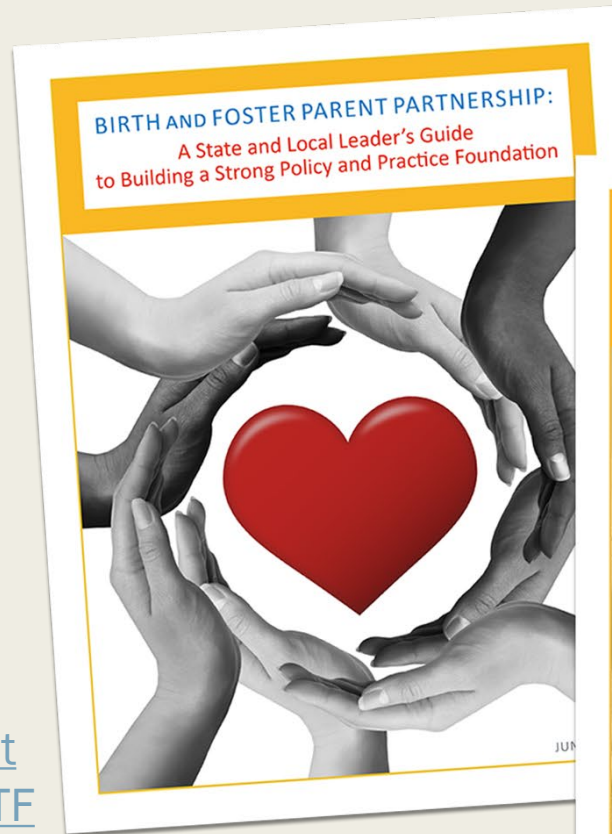
a) If no, why not?

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



[Birth and Foster Parent Partnership \(BFPP\) | CTF Alliance](#)



JUN



JUNE 2020

Executive Summary 1



JUNE 2020

Practical tips to help create and sustain positive lasting relationships between birth families, foster families and kinship caregivers to best support the children and youth in their care.

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>