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Let's Celebrate Family Reunifications



Most often, family reunification is the goal of foster care. When families reunite, it's time to celebrate all the hard work it takes to reach this goal. June is Family Reunification Month and Amara is happy to join reunification celebrations in King and Pierce counties. The King County reunification celebration is Aug. 5 from noon - 2 pm at Gene Coulon Park (South Shelter 1), 1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N., Renton. The Pierce County family reunification celebration is coming soon on June 29th from 2 - 4:30 pm at Wapato Park (Main Picnic Shelter), 6500 S. Sheridan, Tacoma.

You can find more family reunification celebrations from Washington Courts [here](#).

Supportive Parent-Caregiver Relationship Helps Reunite Family & Prevent Future System Involvement



Supportive, child-focused partnerships between parents and foster/kinship caregivers can make a huge difference in the life of a child in foster care. One of the primary benefits is helping kids keep their attachments to their parents, which helps reduce the trauma of being separated from them. And while maintaining these attachments is important for kids of all ages, it is especially important for very young children whose brains are developing at the fastest rate of their lives.

Young Samuel* was barely a toddler when he entered foster care and his parents entered the Family Treatment Court. Family Treatment Courts offer parents more support in their efforts to overcome substance use disorder and reunite their families. In Samuel's case, his parents learned about Amara's Family Connections Program (FCP) through the Family Treatment Court, and they wanted to try to build a relationship with their son's caregiver. At this time, during the pandemic, Samuel's first foster caregiver could no longer care for Samuel and he was being introduced to a brand new foster caregiver who had only recently become licensed. The new caregiver agreed to participate in the FCP.

To help Samuel's parents and caregiver build a strong foundation for their relationship, Amara's FCP team met with his parents several times prior to their Connections Conversation, and four times with his caregiver to make sure everyone understood the goals and process of partnering to benefit Samuel. Their Connections Conversation went very well and all three adults who love Samuel were able to build a supportive relationship that continues even after he was reunited with his parents.

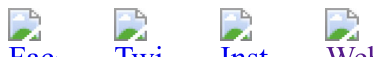
In fact, their relationship was so supportive it not only helped keep Samuel connected to his parents while he was in foster care, it also helped support his parents as they navigated the complicated process of reunification, while they also had another baby. State involvement/foster care was not needed for that child, and now they are a family of four learning and growing together.




FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM™
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Referring to the
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To refer a caregiver for individual support, simply email to fcp@amarafamily.org. One of our experienced caregiver mentors will get in touch promptly.

It can be challenging for caregivers when a parent is sporadic in their engagement. Our FCP Mentors can offer support to caregivers in this situation by drawing upon their personal lived experience and knowledge. Once a caregiver has a better understanding of the circumstances that may lead to this behavior, they are better prepared to engage in partnerships with parents for the benefit of the kids in their care, even when contact is sporadic.



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