

# Foster/ Birth Parent Partnerships

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The child welfare system can and should be designed to protect children by keeping families safe, healthy, and together whenever possible. Rather than being a substitute for parents, foster care can be a critical support for families when parents, for whatever reason, have lost much of their protective capacity. So what does it mean for birth parents and foster parents to truly work together in support of children's well-being? Here is a list of resources found on the Child Welfare Information Gateway website that focus on enhancing foster/birth parent partnerships.

# RESOURCES

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## [Case Planning for Families Involved With Child Welfare Agencies](#)

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Child Welfare Information Gateway (2018)

Provides a review of statutes and administrative codes related to how States address the issue of case planning, including requirements for when a case plan is needed, participants in the case-planning process, and the types of information that must be included in a plan. Laws for all States and territories are included.

## [Engaging Parents in Reunification](#)

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Child Welfare Information Gateway

Provides examples of approaches administrators, supervisors, and frontline workers can use to enhance parent engagement in the case-planning process, including State and local examples.

## [Foster Care Organizations](#)

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Child Welfare Information Gateway (2018)

Provides contact information and websites for more than 30 national and State organizations that offer information and support related to foster care.

## It's All Relative: Fostering Relationships Through Visitation Webinar

Capacity Building Center for States (2018)

Outlines strategies used by California to support partnerships between caregivers and birth parents and by Wisconsin to support trauma-informed visitation.

## Reunification: Bringing Your Children Home From Foster Care

Child Welfare Information Gateway (2016)

Provides an overview of the reunification process, including what parents can expect while their children are in foster care, what they can do to help their children return home, and what to expect after their children return home. Resources available to help families during and after reunification also are included.

## Supporting Successful Reunifications

Child Welfare Information Gateway (2017)

Offers information for child welfare agency managers about strategies for achieving reunification and preventing reentry and includes examples of promising practices being implemented by States and localities.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau

