

Introduction to Family Link



Family Link is a system-wide effort to promote communication and shared parenting practices between resource and birth parents for the benefit of children in the DC foster care system.

* The term *resource parent* is used to refer to foster, kinship, and adoptive parents.

Resources and Support

Family Link Icebreakers (Meetings at CFSA)

Icebreaker meetings are opportunities for resource and birth parents to meet each other face-to-face and to connect over their mutual concern for the child's wellbeing. A trained facilitator will be present during the meeting to prompt a parent-to-parent conversation about the child's needs and the many ways in which the adults can work together to ensure that the child's needs are met. Icebreaker participants will have an opportunity to share information about the child, ask questions, and come up with a communication agreement based upon both parties' preferences.

Shared Parenting Trainings

Family Link's shared parenting training is geared towards all resource parents who are or will be caring for children through the DC foster care system. Training content covers: what shared parenting is; why it matters; common concerns/challenges; the potential benefits; examples of shared parenting practices; and testimonials by foster and birth parents. Food and childcare are provided. Advance registration is required.

Support Group for Resource Parents

FAPAC's monthly support group provides a safe place for people parenting children through the DC child welfare system to talk and connect with their peers. Participants are encouraged to share how their parenting role impacts them and to discuss the rewards and challenges of partnering with their children's birth parents. Food and childcare are provided. Advance registration is required.



And More!

Toolkits: Duffle bag with activities and materials to promote shared parenting, distributed at the 30 -day medical screening at CFSA's Healthy Horizons Clinic;

Resources available for use through www.dcfapac/family link:

- **Tip Sheets** with tips on how to build successful parenting partnerships
- **Links to Shared Parenting videos from other jurisdictions**
- Opportunities to request **presentations** for parents or staff

AND COMING SOON!!!!

- **Advanced Shared Parenting training**
- **DC's "own" original Shared Parenting video**

Family Link initiatives are brought to you by a partnership between CFSA and FAPAC. For more information visit: www.dcfapac.org/FamilyLink

