

July 5, 2022

DC CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

# FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

A newsletter for CFSA's resource  
parents in the District of Columbia



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



## July 2022 at a Glance

- Resource Parent Celebratory Brunch
- National Reunification Month
- The Importance of Shared Parenting
- Seeking My Forever Family: Kingston
- One Family's Reunification Story
- It Takes a Village
- Helpful Tidbits

[View This Email as a PDF](#)

## Feature Stories

### Colors of Spring: Resource Parent Celebratory Brunch

Each May, we look forward to celebrating National Foster Care Month with you! Switching things up this year, we brought the party to the patio at The Point D.C. And oh, did we party! First, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the *Colors of Spring: Resource Parent Celebratory Brunch*. Between the great showing, good food, impressive dance moves, and beautiful views, it felt amazing to catch up with people we hadn't seen in a few years. Thank you for a fantastic event! [Check out the pictures here.](#)



---

## National Reunification Month

Last month, CFSA acknowledged National Reunification Month, and took some time to honor the accomplishments and hard work of families who overcome challenges to reunify with their children. It was an opportunity to recognize the vital role that kin, social workers, foster parents, service providers, attorneys, judges, court-appointed special advocates (CASA), and community partners play in helping to reunify, strengthen, and support families. [Learn more](#) about the importance of reunification.



---

## We Are All Family: The Importance of Shared Parenting

In each issue of *Fostering Connections*, we share the importance of frequent contact between children in foster care and their birth families. We also highlight how positive relationships and interactions between foster and birth families benefit children and improve parenting practices.

Contact with birth families is more successful when foster parents are sensitive, empathetic, and accepting of birth families. It also supports the child in maintaining a sense of belonging to both families. Check out this list of reasons why a shared parenting approach is a win-win:

# It's All Related: The Importance of Shared Parenting

1



Children who had at least weekly contact with their biological parents demonstrated the lowest levels of depression and externalizing problems compared to children with less frequent contact with their biological parents.

2



Where reunification is the goal, young children with more consistent and frequent contact with their biological parents have more secure attachments. They are better adjusted than children who have less frequent contact.

3



Foster parents' sensitivity, empathy, and values of accepting birth families made contact with birth families more successful and supported the child in maintaining a sense of belonging to both families.

4



The quality of parent-to-parent relationship between birth and foster parents increased positive discipline approaches and decreased harsh discipline.

5



Where reunification is the goal, research on parent-child attachment suggests that regular visits between birth families and children should be encouraged; families need to be supported before, during and after visits; and the attachment relationships between children, their foster, and biological parents should be supported.

If you have specific questions about or need support with shared parenting, please contact your Resource Parent Support Worker. We're here to help!

## Seeking My Forever Family

### Kingston

Kingston finds adventure in everything, especially learning. This energetic and affectionate 5-year-old is working on mastering the alphabet, in part, by watching two of his favorite shows: *Blippi* and *Sesame Street*. His resource mother raves about his continued growth and improvement and how he is a joy to care for. If you believe your family is a strong and supportive fit for Kingston, please contact Brian Michael Carr, recruitment social worker in the Administration



## One Family's Reunification Story

"Families are the compass that guides us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter." —**Brad Henry**, lawyer and politician.

In the eight years it took to reunite Ethan with his biological mom, Berenice and Andrea were his compass. In 2012, the Clark County, NV, Department of Family Services removed the then 3-month-old from his mom, Kimberly, who was battling a 20-year addiction. A pair of first-time foster parents helped keep Kimberly and Ethan connected through calls, visits, and consistent photos. Kimberly made it through recovery and reunified with her son in 2020. [Read the full story](#) of how four adults, including the caseworker, worked together to keep a child safe, well, and loved.

## It Takes a Village

- Do you know someone who has the heart, patience, and time to foster children or youth? If so, please send them our way! We can answer questions, invite them to an upcoming recruitment event, or facilitate a one-to-one call/virtual meeting. Email [cfsa.fosterdckids@dc.gov](mailto:cfsa.fosterdckids@dc.gov) to connect.
- Some potential foster parents are sure about their path. Others may need more information to help them decide. Will you share your experience to help guide prospective resource families in making the best life-changing decision they may ever make? Please email us at [cfsa.fosterdckids@dc.gov](mailto:cfsa.fosterdckids@dc.gov) so we can help you tell your story.



## Here to Help

### Help and Support via the FOSTERDCKIDS Website

Check out our "Current Resource Parents" page on FosterDCKids.org. Hover over "Resources," click on "Current Resource Parents," then enter the password: resourcelove.



### REACH Support Hotline for After-Hours Help

Don't forget about the REACH Support Line! Should a challenging situation occur after regular business hours, please call (833) 443-3775 for assistance. View the [REACH Support Line flyer](#) for more information.



### Free COVID-19 Vaccinations (No Appointment Needed) DC | **HEALTH**

Visit one of DC Health's walk-up vaccination sites for a free COVID-19 vaccination. Learn more at [coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated). Can't leave your home? Call (855) 363-0333 for assistance.

## Stability Incentives Available to Eligible Resource Parents

CFSA issues stability incentives to licensed CFSA resource parents who have provided kids in care a safe and stable placement in their home for 12 consecutive months. Contact your Resource Parent Support Worker for more information.

## Earn \$500 via the Resource Parent Referral Program

The Resource Parent Referral Program provides currently licensed CFSA resource parents up to \$500 when a referred parent becomes licensed and a child is placed in their home. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Healthy Horizons Assessment On-Call Service

Have a medical question about the child in your care during non-standard business hours? You can call the Healthy Horizons Assessment Center (HHAC) on-call number (202) 498-8456 on weekends and holidays from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Please note that HHAC does not provide "sick visit" services.

Healthy Horizons Assessment Center  
On-Call Service

**(202) 498-8456**

## Weekly DBH Parent Support Group

The DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) [Wellness Wednesday parent support group](#) provides DC parents, including CFSA resource parents, with a space to connect, care for themselves, and help foster resiliency in the children in their care. Join via [Webex](#) Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and use password **WW20**.



## Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials Available

The Office for Victims of Crime developed these resources to support children and youth who are frequently victims of, or witnesses to, violence and abuse that results in them encountering or navigating the justice system. [Access materials here](#).



## Have feedback, a tip, or a story?

We want to hear from you! Please send all inquiries, suggestions, or story ideas to

[cfsa.opi@dc.gov](mailto:cfsa.opi@dc.gov).

## Follow CFSA on social media!

