



# **Virtual Resource Kit:**

## *Working With Birth Parents*



Building, maintaining, and strengthening connections between birth parents and foster parents keeps the focal point on meeting the needs of children and youth in the child welfare system. We developed this kit to offer links to services, resources, and perspectives that will help encourage collaborations between and connections with birth parents and foster parents.

## Tip Sheet

### **Shared Parenting: Putting the Needs of Children First**

Everyone benefits when birth parents and foster parents collaborate, communicate, and co-parent. This tip sheet discusses the importance of families working together, which ultimately benefits children and youth in out-of-home care.

## *Champion Classrooms Courses and Webinars*

### **Working in Partnership With Birth Parents**

This training provides personal insights from a foster and adoptive parent on the benefits that result from creating partnerships between birth parents and foster parents. The webinar identifies common barriers you may face as you work to create a strong relationship and offers tools and strategies for overcoming them.

### **Foster Parents Supporting Birth Parents: Considerations for Success**

Parents involved in the child welfare system often need support to help them through their journey and foster parents may be well-positioned to provide the support needed. This webinar helps foster parents understand how to be a support to birth parents and provides tips for doing so successfully.

### **Let's Talk: Partnering With Birth Parents**

This mini-training focuses on practical steps foster parents can take to build collaborative relationships with birth parents to provide the best possible outcomes for children in care.

### **Co-parenting Through Connection**

Periodically, the Coalition offers a 5-week hybrid course that consists of self-paced online modules with weekly discussion groups to explore practical strategies for developing cooperative, connected relationships between birth parents and foster parents. Check the Champion Classrooms catalog for more details about the course itself and when it will be available next.

## *No Matter What Families Videos*

### **Everyone Needs Support: A Birth Mom's Story**

### **Everyone Has a Story**

## **No Matter What Families Videos Continued**

**From Birth Mom to Foster Parent: A Journey of Compassion**

**Fostering the Family**

## **Resource Library Items**

### **Partners Newsletter: Working With Birth Parents**

This issue of *Partners* focuses on relationships. Topics include shared parenting while in foster care, myths about birth parents, complexities of law and relationships after adoption, and continued relationships with birth relatives.

### **Kinship Care: Birth Mothers Speak Out (DVD)**

This presentation is one in a 3-part series of Kinship Care topics developed and facilitated by Dr. Joseph Crumbley. Dr. Crumbley is an expert in the relative caregiving field and an internationally respected author, therapist, trainer, and consultant. In this session, birth mothers reflect on their varied experiences with kinship care.

## **Additional Weblinks and Recommended Online Resources**

Co-Parenting or Shared Parenting - Families Rising

Co-Parenting in Foster Care: How to Establish a Relationship with Birth Parents

Questions? Contact the Wisconsin Family Connections Center at 1-800-762-8063  
or at [info@wifamilyconnectionscenter.org](mailto:info@wifamilyconnectionscenter.org).