

Foster Parent/Biological Parent Communication

This guide is to be shared with foster parents at time of placement with added discussion about the importance of attending the case transfer staffing. Prior to the case transfer, time should be scheduled with the foster parent to prepare them for the first meeting with the biological parent. This will help ensure the first meeting is smooth and help the foster parent feel comfortable and safe sharing personal information with the biological parents. Foster parents should also be informed of the importance of the co-parenting approach and the successful rate of reunification that occurs when these techniques are fully implemented.

Foster parents should be prepared to answer the following questions:

How is the foster child doing?

- How is the child sleeping? (E.g., is the child sleeping through the night, is the child taking naps, etc.)
- Was the child able to go back to their same school/daycare the next day?
- How is the child doing at meals? Are they eating?

Tell the biological parents a little about yourself

- How long have you been a foster parent?
- Who lives in the foster home, including pets?
- What activities do you do with the foster children for fun?
- What is your daily routine for the foster children?
- Are there other individuals who provide care for the foster children?
- Do you practice a religion?

Tell the biological parents about the home in which the foster parent resides

- Where do the foster children sleep and do they have their own room?
- If possible, bring pictures of the home itself and the room(s) the foster children sleep in.

Next Steps

If comfortable and in accordance with court ordered visitation agreements, provide the biological parent with a way to contact you (email, cell phone, etc.).

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Division of Milwaukee Child Welfare at 414-343-5500. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.