



Course 4.1: Bridging the Gap of Separation Between Children and Their Families (A Continuum of Contact)

(Revised 2026)



Early/Basic Connections

- Exchange letters with child's family
- Call child's parent on the phone
- Request pictures of child's family to display in the child's room
- Share parenting information
- Share child's Lifebook with Parent
- Talk openly with child about family
- RP* transports parent to meetings
- Arrange family visits with parents
- Review child's visits with parent
- Attend training to learn how to work directly with parents

Building Relationships

- Welcome parents into your home
- View parents as mentors, not a threatening presence
- Have a positive view of the parent
- Brag to parents about the child
- Encourage parents' progress
- RP* provides respite care
- Share progress reports with parents
- Give parents pictures of the child
- Refer to the child as "your child" to their parents

- Learn about, understand, and respect parents' culture

Active Collaboration

- Transport child to visit
- Talk with parent at visit
- Dress child up for visits
- Encourage parent to phone
- Meet child's family at placement
- Request cultural information from parent
- Encourage and reassure reunification
- Ask parent to come to school events
- Serve as support to family following reunification
- Share copies of homework and report cards with family

Partnership & Support

- Attend parenting classes with parents
- Send snacks or activities for visits
- Give parents verbal progress reports
- Attend staffing, and court hearing
- Invite parent to attend school programs
- Assist in planning child's return home
- RP* hosts or arranges sibling visits
- Include parents in farewell activities
- Take or pick up child to/from parent
- Help parents find community resources

RP*= Resource Parents

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact Resource Family Training at resource.familytraining@odhsoha.oregon.gov or 503-930-8903. We accept all relay calls.