

<u>8 Advocacy Tips to Support Placement Stability in Foster Care</u></u>

Placement with kin has proved more stable and safe for many children and youth in care.
Advocate for vigorous family search efforts and for kin placement if a safe option is available. ¹



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Kin caregivers may struggle with the costs of providing for the children in their care. Depending on the caregiving arrangement there may be financial supports available. **Advocate for foster care financial benefits for kin.**²



Research demonstrates that children placed with siblings are more stable than those that aren't, on average.³ Advocate that siblings stay together unless sibling placement is not in the child's best interest, according to the Foster Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.⁴

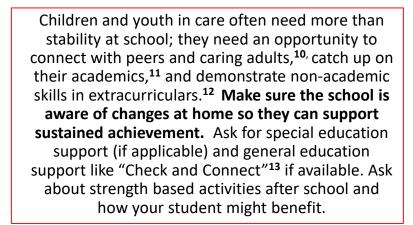


Ask: Is the agency providing support and services that support healthy reunification? Does the proposed foster parent plan align with the child's permanency goal? **Engage with the child's team and advocate for reasonable efforts**.⁵



Maintain regular contact with the child/client and the caregivers. Placement breakdowns can occur because the caregiver doesn't know where to communicate their needs.⁷ In addition, providing caregivers voice in meetings and court appearances improves their sense of efficacy and may improve child welfare outcomes.⁸

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires school stability for students in foster care when that in their best interest. Success at school supports placement stability. Ask for a Best Interest Determination from the child's school and attend the meeting.⁹







Research demonstrates that children's behavior is the most significant cause of placement disruption.⁶ Advocate for evidenced-based mental health services and treatment foster care, if appropriate, especially in the face of repeated disruptions.



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