

Shared Parenting

Building supportive relationships between parents and carers for a child's wellbeing





Children in care have more positive experiences when their parents and carers work together.

When parents and carers don't have the opportunity to communicate and share information, it can make it confusing for children, make them feel distressed, and conflicted with their loyalty and make the child's care less consistent.

By feeling secure knowing the most important people in their lives are working together, children are free to grow and develop with fewer worries.

Benefits of Shared Parenting Approach

FOR THE CHILD

- Better understanding and consistent meeting of your child's needs.
- Your child feels more secure when parents and carers have a good relationship.
- Your child experiences love and care from all adults involved.
- Witnessing collaboration among adults brings comfort to your child.

FOR THE PARENT(S)

- Access to comprehensive information about your child's life.
- Opportunity to maintain and strengthen your parental role, even when apart from your child.
- Sharing family history, culture, and important information with your child's carer.
- Developing a shared understanding of your child's needs, achievements, and experiences in care.
- Building long-term supportive relationships for both you and your child.

FOR FOSTER & KINSHIP CARERS

- Getting to know your child's parent as an individual.
- Learn more about the child's needs, interests and their strengths.
- Facilitating smoother transitions to and from Family Time (visits).
- Better support the child having a connection with their parent and potentially reunification.

Shared Parenting Meetings Look Like:

PREPARING PARENTS

At the meeting, you can talk about things important for the care of your child. Your caseworker can help you decide what to talk about and how to raise sensitive topics.

Your caseworker will prepare you to focus on your child's needs and how you can best support your child while they are living away.

PREPARING FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

For the first meeting, you will want to be prepared to share a brief description of your family and maybe a photo of the child's room (or house if you feel safe doing so).

You can ask the parent about the child's routine, favourite items or things to do, traditions and any upcoming medical appointments and health concerns.

As Shared Parenting progresses, you will be updating the parent(s) about the child's experiences and activities they may want/need to be involved in. The facilitator will talk with you before each meeting about those updates and help you express any concerns in a way the parent(s) can best hear them.

THE SHARED PARENTING MEETING

Parents, foster and kinship carers, and caseworkers come together to share information and collaborate on providing consistent care for the child.

These meetings typically occur on a regular basis, such as monthly. Regular meetings help build strong relationships among all involved. However, the frequency can be adjusted based on the specific needs of the child and family.

A facilitator guides the meeting, ensuring that everyone participates to get the best outcomes for the child.



For more Information:



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