

Tips for Reunification

1. Start conversations with the transitioning child as well as other children in the home to help prepare them for the transition.
2. Provide artistic outlets for children to express their emotions and feelings.
3. View the process through the lens of the transitioning child.
4. Have clear communication with the agency or county to ensure the transition plan is clear on all ends; and, if possible, have it in writing.
5. Documentation - Send originals of child's documents, artwork and photos with him. Keep a copy of artwork and photos you cherish.
6. Send all the child's belongings with him. Consider including something that will provide the child memories of your love and care.
7. Provide a copy of the child's current schedule for reference.
8. Maintain relationships with the child and family when possible.
9. Remember the child and family continue to benefit from your prayers.
10. Consider family counseling to give everyone the opportunity to express and process their emotions.
11. Plan time to celebrate and grieve before and after the transition. For example, hold a 'send off party' with the child's favorite meal the last night they are in your home. Include a time to share favorite memories. After the transition, schedule time with remaining family members to share and discuss feelings. Don't ignore the feelings – it's okay to cry and be real.