

CARE

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How is caring “Family Involved”?

Family Involvement is a core principle of the CARE Model, and a major commitment we uphold in the way we care for children at Life Without Barriers. Family are children’s most enduring connection. The goal of fostering is always for children to return home whenever it is safe to do so. Even if the child remains in care, it is the responsibility of Carers and the team to strengthen family relationships.

Involving parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other kin and community in a child or young person’s life is vital in helping them to feel safe and well, and in strengthening the essential connections they will need throughout their lives.

Nurturing family relationships, and connections between Carers and a child’s family, contributes to ensuring stability and a sense of belonging during a child’s experience in care.



Family involved Carers recognise a child's need to have a relationship with and know their family and take responsibility for maintaining a child's connection with family, country and culture. This will normally mean Carers meet parents and family and form natural and ongoing relationships with them.

These connections allow children and young people to feel as though they have a team involved in their lives, and access to information about themselves when they need it. Sometimes supporting these relationships might mean being creative and flexible, especially when children might not be able to see their family face to face. Children need to see all the adults in their lives being respectful of each other and working together.



**“I wanted to know as a mum, just who’s in her life.
Who loves and cares for her? I asked for the foster family to be there.
I wanted to meet the siblings of my child”**

In considering your readiness to start the journey of becoming a Carer at Life Without Barriers, it's helpful to think about any thoughts you have on how you might support a child to know where they are from, and to remain connected to their family, community and culture.

Some questions to consider are:



1. How has knowing your past shaped your identity and who you are today? How would you feel if you had no shared memories from the past with the people around you?



2. What beliefs do you hold about families who have children in care?



3. What steps do you think you could take to get to know a child's family? How does it help children when you and their family have a close relationship?



4. What emotions do you feel when you think about children returning home to their families, and to their country and culture? Why is it important for children to return home if safe to do so?



5. What could you do to strengthen family involvement in the day-to-day life of a child? What benefits can you see for children if family are involved? Consider short-term and long-term.

Managing family dynamics can be a challenge at times. CARE offers us new and different ways to create the conditions for change in children and young people. We focus on ensuring that children have positive relationships with the important people in their lives to help their own identity develop. Are you ready to help a child and their family stay connected?

LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

Contact us

For more information on any of the services provided by Life Without Barriers, please contact us on:

1300 592 227



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