

6. Family

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN'S FAMILIES

Why is it important?

- respite from their feelings of grief and loss
- being reassured they haven't been abandoned by their family
- opportunity for parents to explain why they have come into care
- to remember their family
- to promote their sense of identity
- to support their culture

How to develop a good relationship with the parents and family:

- attending case meetings
- valuing the family's knowledge about their child. (Ask them what their child likes to eat, what they like to do, what makes them feel happy or sad etc).
- share stories about their child's time with you, where they sleep, what they do, what they eat, what you have noticed they are good at etc.
- if family send clothes for their children – remember to dress children in these for family time and take photos
- help role model good parenting if invited to do so