



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

KEEPING THEIR CUP FULL: Supporting Kinship and Non-Relative Foster Parents

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Virginia Department of Social Services



AGENDA

- **INTRODUCTIONS**
- **MAKING PLACEMENT POSSIBLE**
- **SUPPORTS FOR FOSTER PARENTS, KINSHIP AND NON-RELATIVE**
- **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL DEPARTMENTS**

VDSS Permanency Team

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Path to Permanency



What losses do children experience as the result of removal from their parents?



Critical Decisions at time of placement

- Safety can never be achieved without healing
- Informed family driven decision making- Family Partnership Meetings
- Path to permanency begins at placement



Making Placement Possible

- Using the Permanency Assessment Tool for a strengths-based assessment of kin
- Kinship Waiver for non-safety requirements



**How does your agency
prioritize placing
children with relatives?**



Foster Parents in Virginia's Kin First Culture



[Foster Care in Virginia Preserving Family Connections - YouTube](#)

601 responses

2023 Statewide Foster Parent Survey

- Resource Parents do find pre-service and in-service useful! They feel that they gain the skills and knowledge needed to foster. THANK YOU CRAFFT!
- Resource Parents overwhelmingly agree that they are notified with services plans, treatment plans, etc.
- Resource Parents feel that fostering is worthwhile and that they have made a difference in the lives of children. Therefore, they would encourage others to become resource parents!

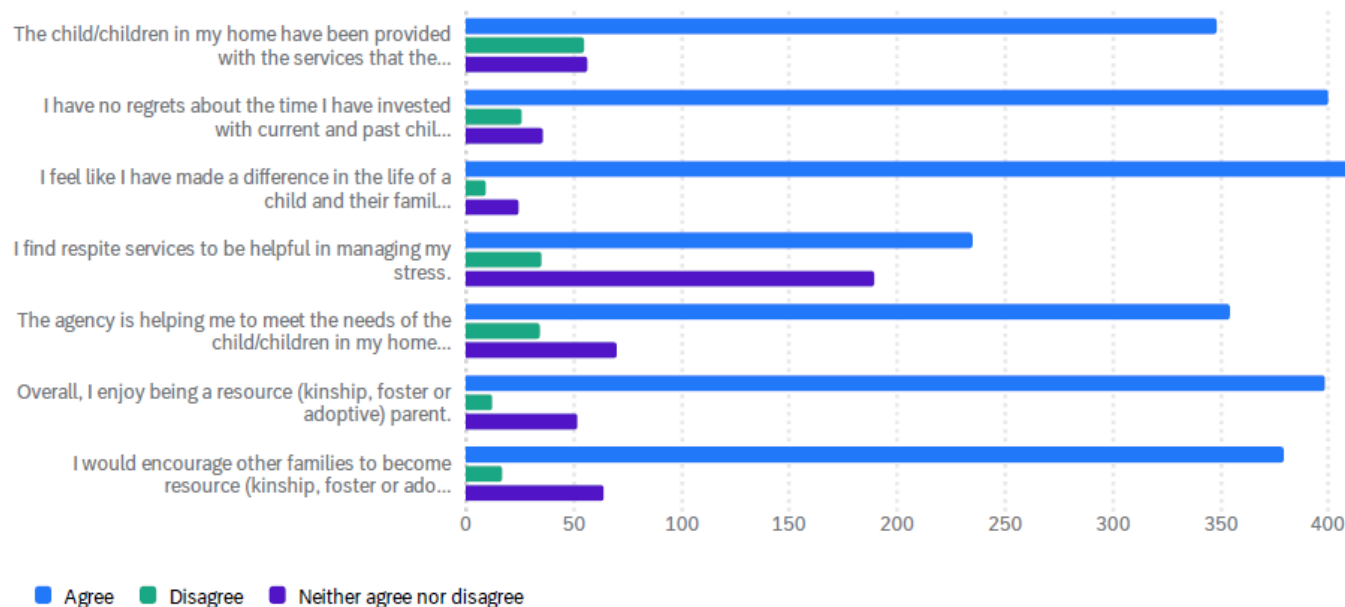
Areas of Need:

Many resource parents reported that FSS do NOT value input from resource parents in case planning or in court.

Relationships with birth parents could be improved and supported in the best interest of the children they care for.



Please respond to the following statements regarding your kinship, foster or adoptive experience. 463 ⓘ



What do foster parents need to be a support not a substitute ?

- » Supportive and collaborative relationship with the child's parents and relatives – information sharing is in the best interest of the child**
- » Transparent communication regarding needs of the child**
- » Recognized as a member of the child and family professional team**
- » In-service training and support to understand the impact of trauma on behavior**

Placement Disruption

- Diminshing pleasure
- Child is the problem
- Going public
- Point of no return
- Deadline
- Disruption



Post Placement Reviews/Family Development Plans

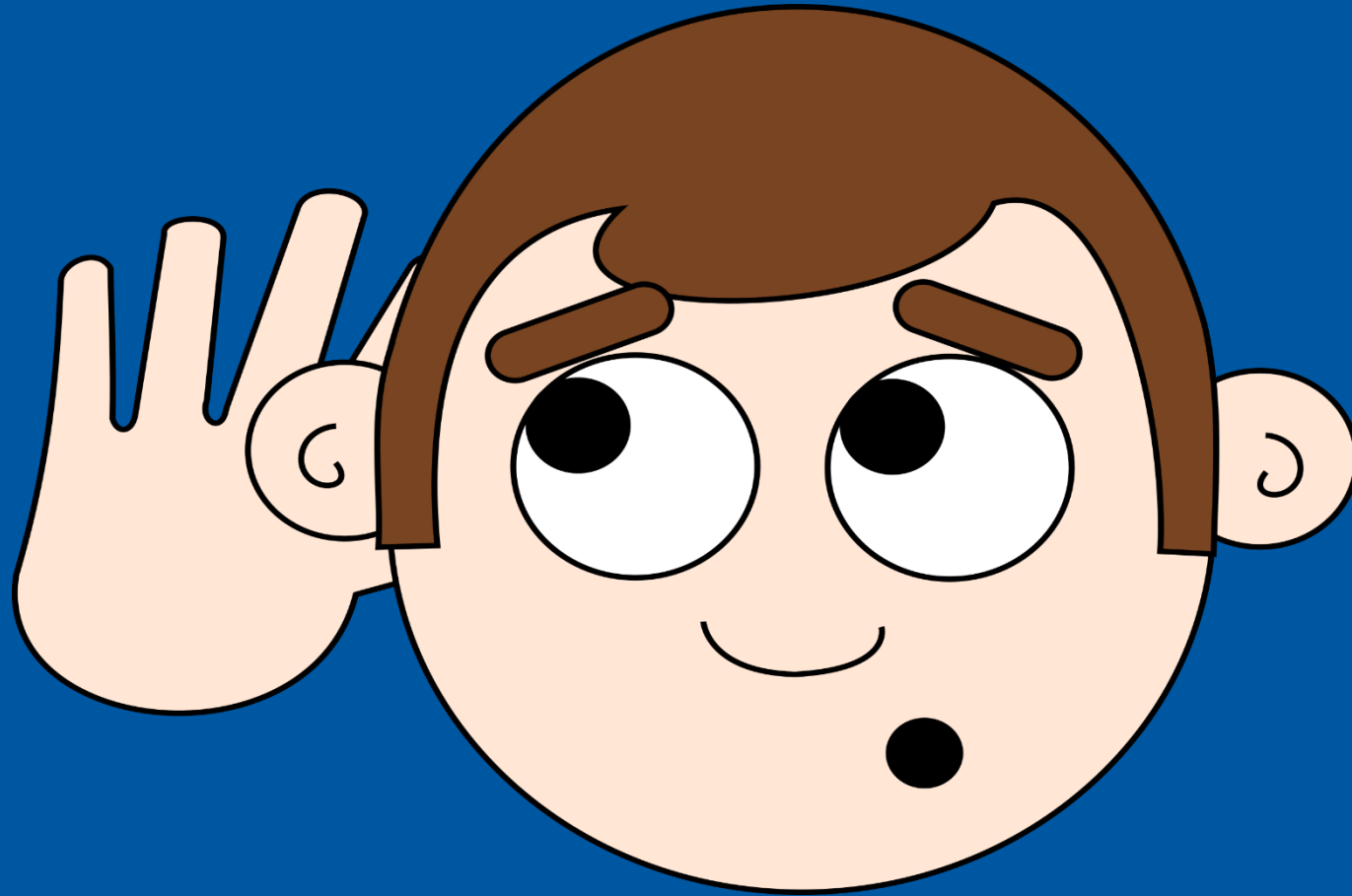
- Self Assessment by Family
- Open communication regarding strengths & challenges
- Action Steps –Family & Agency



Supports/Resources

- Contingency Fund
- Foster Parent College
- Respite
- Exceptional Circumstances Payments
- Public & Private Partnerships to provide wrap around support to Kinship Foster Parents

Lets Hear From You



2022 General Assembly HB 653 Collaborative local department placement programs

- Increase capacity to engage, assess and place children who enter foster care with relatives
- Increase pool of locally approved non-relative foster families
- Increase capacity to support kinship, foster and adoptive families





QUESTIONS



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