

There are a number of things that can be done by you, the foster parent, to assist the parents of your foster child to remain involved in the child's growth and development. You should consult with the child's caseworker to ensure that these actions are consistent with the care plan for the child.

1. If your foster child has to go see the doctor, invite his/her parents to come with you.
2. In the case of a young baby, invite his/her parents to go with you for the child's vaccinations.
3. Find out the mother's and father's birthday and encourage the child to make a card for her/him or to save her/his money to buy her/him a small gift. In the case of very young children, you could buy a birthday card and send it from the child.
4. On Father's Day/Mother's Day, Christmas and other special days, again encourage the child to remember his/her parents. In the case of young children, you can do it for them.
5. Invite the parents to attend teacher interviews with you, if possible.
6. If the child plays a sport, ask his/her parents to come out and watch.
7. Keep a record of events about the child that you can give to his/her parents when he/she goes home.
8. Share school work brought home, with the parents.

Remember the little things your own children do for you and how great it makes you feel, then help to pass that feeling on to your foster child's parents. They are parents also, and just because for various reasons they can't live with their children, doesn't mean they should miss out on all the wonderful memories our children can give us.

It is even more important that you refrain from making inappropriate or derogatory comments about the foster children's parents and family.

