



# Virtual Resource Kit:

## *The Importance of Maintaining Sibling Relationships & Connections*



Sibling relationships are often the longest relationships we will have in our lifetimes. As a parent or a caregiver of siblings, you have an opportunity to encourage and facilitate contact between siblings—even if they are not living together. Maintaining the bonds and connections between siblings now can empower and strengthen their relationships well into their adult lives.

## Tip Sheets

### **Parenting Siblings Connected Through Trauma**

Siblings who share a trauma history can sometimes form trauma bonds. This tip sheet offers parenting tips and strategies to help parents and caregivers navigate this complex bond with their children.

### **Sustaining & Strengthening the Sibling Bond**

Sometimes siblings are not able to reside in the same household. If and when this occurs, it is important to develop and maintain connections between siblings to promote their emotional wellness and well-being.

### **Fostering a Child Whose Sibling(s) Live Elsewhere**

When siblings live apart, they do not have to be disconnected from one another. Parents and caregivers can provide assistance and support in facilitating healthy and empowering connections with one another.

## Champion Classrooms Courses and Webinars

### **Supporting Sibling Relationships: Honoring Their Past, Present, and Future**

This recorded webinar explores how foster and adoptive parents can support sibling relationships for the child(ren) in their care.

### **Sibling Relationships**

This course looks at three separate but common concerns that foster and adoptive families face: sustaining and strengthening the sibling bond, sibling conflicts in adoptive families, and parenting siblings connected through trauma.

## No Matter What Families Videos

### **Race and Transracial Parenting**

Several families and a sibling set share the deeply personal emotions they all have experienced in navigating racism and oppression. There are so many important lessons and enlightening insights that can be learned by listening to their heartfelt journeys.

### **How Parenting Again Changed Our Lives**

A grand family shares their feelings and insights about becoming parents again when they open their hearts and home to parenting and fostering their grandchildren. The rewards of parenting again have positively impacted the entire family.



## ***Coalition Publications and Other Lending Library Resources***

**Fostering Across Wisconsin Newsletter: The Importance of Sibling Connections**

**Fostering Across Wisconsin: Sibling Relationships**

**National Siblings Day Coalition Connection Blog Post**

***Brothers and Sisters in Adoption*, by Arleta M. James**

***Siblings in Adoption and Foster Care: Traumatic Separations and Honored Connections*, by Deborah N. Silverstein and Susan Livingston Smith**

## ***Additional Weblinks and Recommended Online Resources***

**Camp To Belong-Wisconsin, Inc.**

**Circumstances of Sibling Groups in Adoption - Child Welfare Information Gateway**

**Sibling Connections In Foster Care, Why They're Important - Foster Care Alumni of America**

**Questions? Contact the Coalition at 414-475-1246  
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