

Families for Kids

recruitment resources

830 Pacific Ave, Suite 101
Bremerton, WA 98337
888.794.1794 fax - 360.377.3548
www.familiesforkids.org

Support Group Model for Foster Family Support

The basic concept is that foster families are organized in groups of eight or more families for mutual support.

One parent or family serves as the support group facilitator. Support groups are organized by geographical area. Foster parents meet at times of their choosing at least once a month.

Support Services:

1. Regular meetings: Coffee hours, potluck dinners, social events, specialized trainings, book clubs, etc. The actual structure will vary from group to group. The overall purpose is for parents to get together on a regular basis to visit, share ideas, laugh, cry, etc.
2. Respite: Each group is responsible for their own respite. Once again, the group sets the actual structure. The respite may be as simple as “Jeff goes to play at Alex’s house on Thursday’s so Jeff’s foster mom can run errands or go to lunch without kids”. It also could be much more structured where one family is designated as the respite family for the group.
3. Shared resources: The groups are organized by geographical area so cribs, books, car seats, etc. can be passed around easily as children ebb and flow from homes.

Support Group Facilitator:

1. Receives a small monthly stipend to help cover expenses.
2. Report to the Regional Coordinator.
3. Is an experienced foster parent.
4. Coordinates monthly meetings of the group.

Goal:

The over all goal of a support group is to build a self-supporting group of foster parents. Our purpose is to provide support, encouragement and mutual accountability. However, these support groups really need to operate as autonomously as possible. They will be more successful if they drive their destiny.

toll free

1.888.794.1794