

Resources for Learning Circle One

Youth Permanency

- Framework for Permanency

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/permanence-for-young-people.html

In June 2004 the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and the Casey Center for Effective Child Welfare Practice at Casey Family Services co-sponsored a meeting of experts in the field of youth permanency to develop a framework and measurements that can be used by public child welfare agencies throughout the country to improve practice.

- Report to Congress on Adoption and Other Permanency Outcomes for Children in Foster Care: Focus on Older Children

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/congress_adopt/index.htm

In recent years, increasing national attention has been focused on the need to find adoptive homes for children in foster care. The Adoption Promotion Act (the Act), passed in 2003, supported these efforts by reauthorizing the Adoption Incentive Program, a key outcome-focused tool for promoting adoption, and also introduced a special focus on the need to find adoptive homes for children ages 9 and older. Congress included in the Act a requirement for a report that presents the strategies and promising approaches being undertaken to achieve permanency outcomes for children in foster care. In keeping with the legislative requirement, this report addresses not only adoption, but also the achievement of other permanency outcomes for children, with a special focus on older children. The challenges faced in attempts to achieve these outcomes are summarized, along with strategies for addressing these challenges. The report concludes with a summary of the progress that has been made in addressing these issues and the strategies that show promise of improving outcomes for children in foster care

- Call to Action: An Integrated Approach to Youth Permanency and Preparation for Adulthood

http://www.caseyfamilyservices.org/pdfs/casey_permanency_0505.pdf

This document from Casey Family Services and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in collaboration with California Permanency for Youth Project, Casey Family Programs and the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Inc. addresses the complex needs unique to adolescents in foster care. It describes an integrated and collaborative approach to achieving family permanency and comprehensive preparation for adulthood.

- Model Programs for Youth Permanency

http://www.cpy.org/booklets.html#model_programs

This publication from California Permanency for Youth Project reports on nine exemplary permanency programs throughout the U.S. and explains the critical elements of such programs. An addendum includes brief descriptions of sixteen additional programs.

- Massachusetts Breakthrough Series Collaborative on Adolescent Permanency: Promising Practices and Lessons Learned
http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/permanency/MA_DSS_Adolescent_Permanency_BSC_Promising%20Practices_Final%20Report.pdf
 From November 2005-October 2006, the Massachusetts Department of Social Services sponsored a statewide Breakthrough Series Collaborative focused on Adolescent Permanency. This initiative supported 29 teams from across Massachusetts, along with one team each from Rhode Island and Maine, as they tested and implemented practices to improve the way permanency is achieved for adolescents. This final report highlights the key themes and promising practices that emerged from these 31 participating teams.
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/responding/youth/>
 This section of the Child Welfare Information Gateway website is devoted to Youth Permanency, with sections on Strategies and Programs, Spotlight on Adoption, Supporting Youth in Foster Care, Youth Perspectives, and Outcomes for Emancipated Youth.

Life Books

- Life Book Pages
<http://www.ifapa.org/resources/publications.asp>
 The Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association created lifebook pages to allow a child to pick the pages that fit his or her style. Each page can be printed separately which allows a child the ability to hand-select a preferred page.
- Lifebook Pages
<http://www.fosterclub.com/funstuff/lifebooks.cfm>
 Lifebook pages from Foster Club, the national network for youth in foster care.
- Adoption Lifebooks
<http://www.adoptionlifebook.com/>
 Purchase a variety of lifebooks, including those designed specifically for adoption, foster care, and teenagers.

The 3–5–7 Model: Preparing Children for Permanency

<http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/academy/pdf/The357model.pdf>

This article introduces a practice model for the preparation of children for permanency. It is based on three components: (1) the completion of three tasks—clarification of life events, integration of all family memberships, and actualization in belonging to a new family; (2) the answering of five conceptual questions relevant to each child living in placement, Who am I? What happened to me? Where am I going? How will I get there?, and When will I know I belong?; and (3) the use of critical skill elements in the preparation work: engaging the

child, listening to the child's words, speaking the truth, validating the child's life story, creating a safe space, going back in time, and recognizing pain as part of the process. By incorporating this model, workers and families conducting the preparation work, assist the child in grieving losses, formulating self-identity, establishing trust and security through attachments, and building relationships and openness to join families on a permanent basis.

Permanency Pact

<http://www.fosterclub.com/pdfs/PermPact.pdf>

FosterClub's new free tool designed to encourage life-long, kin-like connections between a young person and a supportive adult. Download a free PDF of the publication.

Neighborhood Support and Children's Connectedness

http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2008_02_05_ConnectednessFS.pdf

This fact sheet from Child Trends, based on findings from the National Survey of Children's Health, shows that children benefit from positive connections to parents, peers, the community and other societal institutions, and that neighborhood connectedness is related to being connected in other ways, as well.

Making the Case for Ongoing Connections Between Youth and Those Who Matter to Them - Before Permanency and Beyond

<http://www.nrcadoption.org/youthpermanencycluster/resource.html>

This Guide from the Family Connections Project in Illinois is a manual that presents audience-specific education to legal and court personnel about the benefits of open permanency arrangements that are based on a parenting curriculum provided by Adoptions Unlimited, Inc. (AUI) for use in the project. It is just one of the resources developed by Adoption Opportunity Grantees.

Six Steps to Finding a Family: A Practice Guide to Family Search and Engagement

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/family-search.html

This new guide from the NRCFCPPP and the California Permanency for Youth Project provides detailed guidance on casework practice that supports family search and engagement in the quest to provide permanency for youth people. It headlines our new web page on Family Search and Engagement.

2008 National Convening on Youth Permanence: Recommendations of Youth and Young Adults

<http://www.f2f.ca.gov/res/pdf/ConveningRecommendationsYouth.pdf>

Does everyone deserve a forever family? Do teens and young adults desire a forever family? Which permanency option is best for youth? How do young people define permanence? These were some of the questions asked by over 30 youth and young adults that attended the 2008 National Convening on Youth Permanence, all with a desire to share their experiences about the foster care system. This summary shares their messages and encourages participants from the Convening to feel their experiences, hear their recommendations and make permanency a reality for all youth and young adults.

This site contains links to other web sites that may be of interest to you. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF)/Children's Bureau (CB) does not endorse the views expressed or the facts presented on these sites. Their contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views or policies of the Children's Bureau. Access to this information does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services. Furthermore, ACF/CB does not endorse any commercial products that may be advertised or available on these sites.