

Partnership Parenting Take Aways

- Research shows it benefits all team members but mostly the child. It reduces the stress and anxiety for the child, which impacts them positively long term.
- Consider the Big Picture, whether the child is reunified or is adopted they have a connection to their biological family which is their story and where they came from.
- Focus on the child and what is best for them
- If you ask a child to choose between their biological parents and you their foster parents, you will lose.
- Understand the cycle of child abuse and neglect. Biological parents often were once children in the cycle.
- A biological parent may have never experienced positive parenting; you could be a mentor to them.
- Recognize your own biases and beliefs, and how they may impact your relationship with biological parents.
- Default response to biological parents when you don't know, "I'm not sure about that let me ask the worker."
- Compassion does not mean self-sacrificing. Take care of yourself.
- There may be circumstances where this relationship is not healthy or going to work positively.
- You can say that you tried to be a part of the on-going solution for the child