

## Partnership Parenting

The term, “Partnership Parenting” refers to a model of shared parenting between birth and foster parents. Partnership parenting strives to build and maintain positive relationships and communication between birth and foster families involved in a child’s life. The goal of partnership parenting is to support family reunification or another permanency plan while keeping the child connected to their family. The successful partnership between foster and birth parents can have outstanding impact on a child’s foster care experience and help keep the child intimately connected to their birth family during their placement in foster care.

**When parents and foster parents work together, children experience less trauma and anxiety in foster care.**

Results of Partnership Parenting:

- Reduced trauma, stress and anxiety for the child
- Reduced feelings of divided loyalty for the child
- Decreased sense of loss and abandonment for the child
- The child maintains stronger family connections while in foster care
- Smoother transition to permanency whether reunification or another permanency options
- Continued contact post reunification
- Access to biological family post adoption to maintain relationships
- Permanency can be achieved sooner
- Reduced attempts at “splitting” the adults involved- “Co-Parenting”
- Increased level of comfort for the parents about who is caring for their child
- Less conflict and tension between the birth family and the foster family
- Foster parents may have increased information about the child and their history
- Foster children sense the relationship between foster parents and biological parents, whether positive or negative