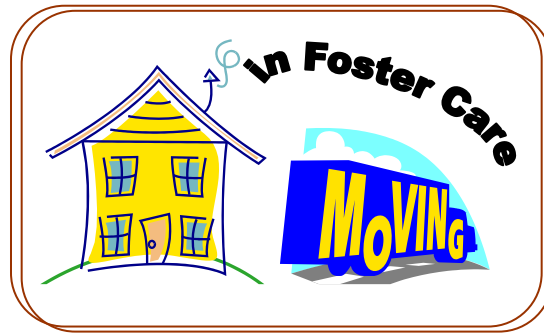


MOVING IN FOSTER CARE: A Journey of Loss and Hope



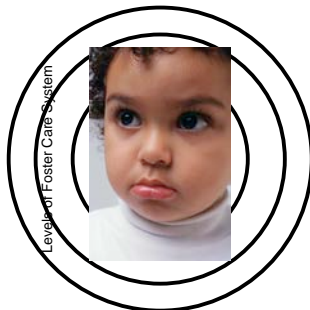
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

✿ Yvonne A. Unrau, Ph.D and Kristin S. Putney ✿

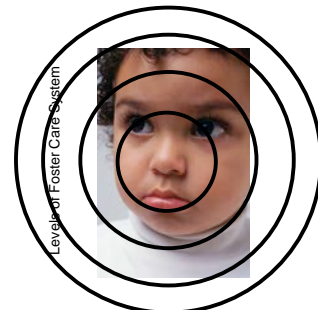
Contact: Yvonne Unrau, Professor of Social Work &

Director, Center for Fostering Success

269-387-3185 or Yvonne.Unrau@wmich.edu



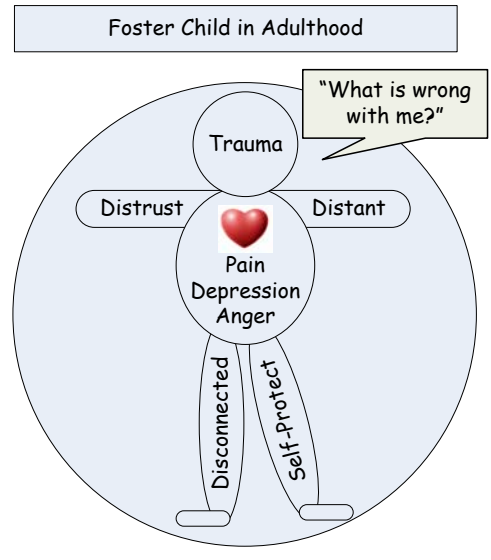
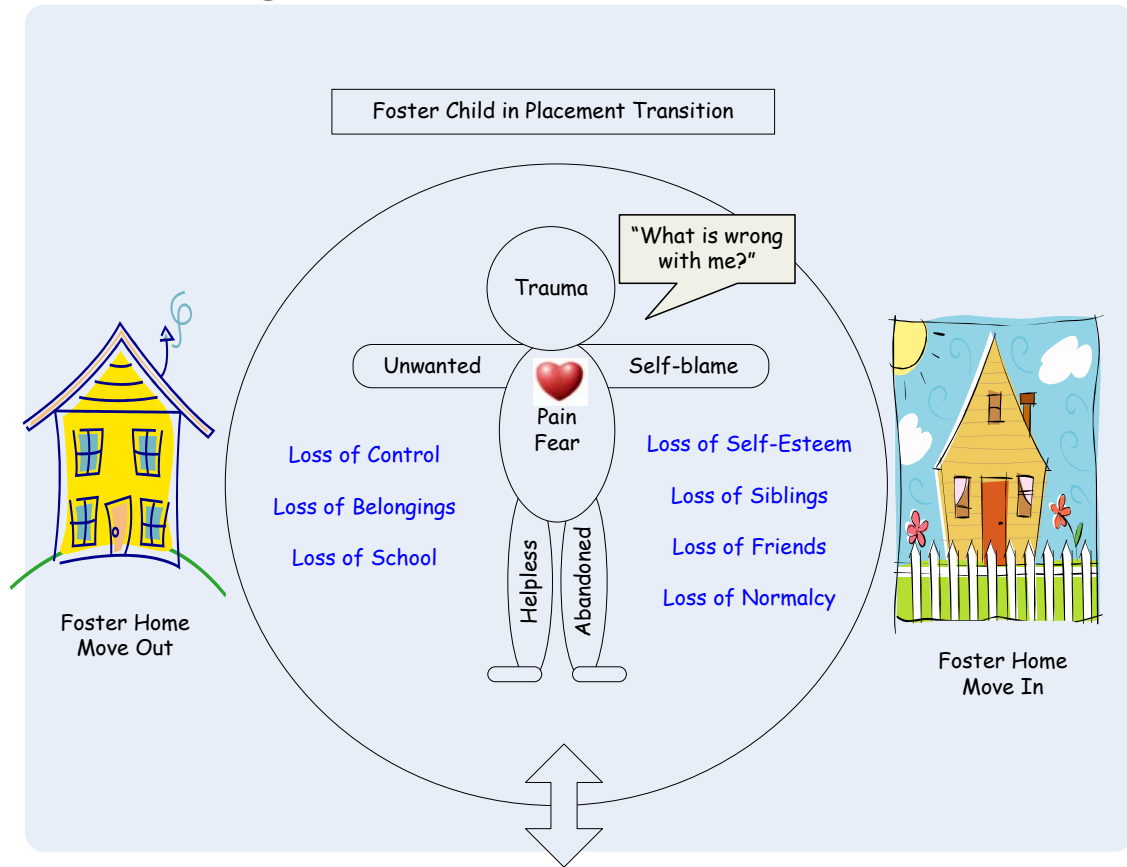
Putting kids' needs
before system demands.



October 10, 2011

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Picturing the Foster Child in the Transition of Moving from One Placement to Another

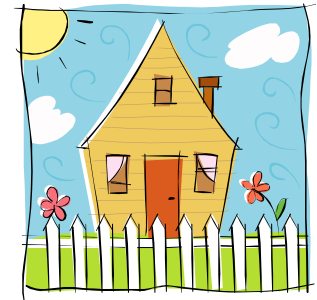
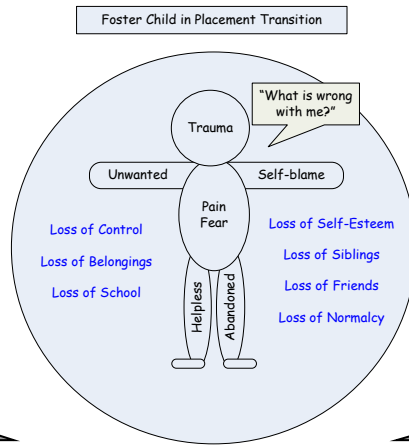


Reducing the Harm of Moves

Fostering Connection: Mentally. Emotionally & Physically



Foster Home
Move Out



Foster Home
Move IN

Old Foster Parents

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & RELEASE

See the Move Through My Eyes Care,
Support & Listen to Me
Ask Me About My Hopes and Fears
Help Understand/Express Feelings
Talk About Having Mixed Feelings
Understand My Mistrust

INFORMATION

Be Honest with Me
Provide Accurate Information
Be Informed About the Plan
Explain to Me What to Expect
Involve Me in Decisions
Advocate for Me

TRANSITION

Give Adequate Notice (2 weeks+)
Talk with My Future Family
Support Me Visiting New Home

FAMILIARITY

Send All My Personal Belongings
Tell New Home About My Routines
Give Keepsakes/Photos of You
Invite Me to Contact You
Stay in Contact with Me

Caseworkers

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & RELEASE

See the Move Through My Eyes
Care, Support & Listen to Me
Ask Me About My Hopes and Fears
Help Me Understand & Express My Feelings
Talk With Me About Mixed Feelings
Understand My Mistrust
Additional Counseling

INFORMATION

Be Honest with Me
Give Me Accurate Information About Move
Have a Plan
Explain to Me What to Expect
Ask Me About What I Want/Expect
Involve Me in Decisions
Give Realistic Picture of Future Home

TRANSITION

Give Adequate Notice (2 weeks+)
Match Me & New Foster Home
Give Me Information About New Home
Provide Pre-placement Visits
Communication Between Caregivers

FAMILIARITY

Personal Belongings
Support Maintenance of Familiar Routines
Stay in Communication With Me
Keep Familiar Supports:
Siblings, School, Friends, Mentor, Counselor

New Foster Parents

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & RELEASE

See the Move Through My Eyes
Welcome Me into Your Home
Care, Support & Listen to Me
Ask Me About My Hopes and Fears
Help Understand/Express Feelings
Talk About My Mixed Feelings
Understand My Mistrust
Help Me Feel Wanted
Don't treat Me Differently

INFORMATION

Be Honest with Me
Explain Your Rules & Expectations
Be Informed About the Plan
Ask Me About What I Want/Expect
Involve Me in Decisions

TRANSITION

Meet & Visit Me Before Move In
Talk with My Past Family
Support My Past Home Connection
Give Me My Own Space

FAMILIARITY

Personal Belongings
Ask Me Routines, Likes & Dislikes
Learn About My Birth Family
Let Me Visit My Birth Family Soon
Support Me Visiting Friends
Keep Familiar Supports: Siblings, School,
Counselor, Friends, Mentor



What can you do to help reduce harm of removal and placement moves for children?

