

## Family Time Services

When a child has been placed in foster care or with a relative, parent(s) and their child are entitled to regular visits to maintain the parent/child relationship. Family Time Services, formerly called Parent Child Visitation, helps to maintain the connection between parents and children. Family Time Providers schedule visits between parents and their children; provide transport of children, to and from the visits, and oversee the visits.

Research shows children and youth are at their most traumatized stage immediately following removal and often do not see their parents for days or weeks, which can exacerbate stress responses and compound trauma. A growing body of research associates regular, meaningful family time, for children in out-of-home care, with several positive outcomes. Consistent contact with parents is also strongly associated with reunification.

Providers in our network are primarily smaller business and/or non-profit agencies. FIN has been able to substantially support Family Time Providers with quality assurance, training, process improvements and access to philanthropy dollars.

The Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) has geographic locations separated into six regions. Region 1 and Region 2 are made up of 20 counties in Eastern and Central Washington. FIN began overseeing Family Time in Region 1 in July 2015 and expanded these services to Region 2 in March 2020. FIN currently has 19 Family Time Providers in DCYF's Regions 1 and 2.

DCYF Social workers create a plan for Family Time services and sends that referral to FIN. FIN then makes the connection with the provider.