



When a child goes home: A season of transition

This month, the navigators wanted to share about reunification and transition when it comes to fostering. The goal of foster care is reunification. We know this as foster parents, but it is still hard sometimes to support this goal and to send a child back to their biological family.

Sometimes reunification is not the goal anymore as termination has happened. Maybe this child cannot stay with your family for whatever reason and they will be transitioning to their forever home with another family.

Whether it is reunification or transition, when a child leaves our home whom we have loved and given our all too, it is hard. There are many emotions that come and it can be difficult to navigate.

Below are some tips and advice to help ease this transition.

Ways to support reunification:

<https://www.capstonefostercare.co.uk/knowledge-centre/tips-for-supporting-reunification-in-foster-care>

Tips for foster parents preparing for reunification:

<https://blog.adoptuskids.org/6-tips-for-foster-parents-preparing-for-reunification/>

Explaining a move to a child in foster care:

<https://www.liveabout.com/explain-a-move-to-foster-child-27085>

Emotions and grief that come when a child goes home:

<http://crazyquiltmama.com/2017/04/14/emotions-foster-parent-hardest-part-4-of-6/>

Foster parents should grieve when a child leaves their family:

<https://youthtoday.org/2016/03/foster-parents-should-grieve-when-a-child-leaves-their-family/>

Reunification from a foster parent's point of view:

<https://www.sosillinois.org/selfless-love-reunification-from-a-foster-parents-point-of-view/>

Your foster care navigator has experienced some type of transition with fostering and sending a child home. We are here for you. To listen, to cry with, laugh with, and to walk with you through the complicated emotions that comes with having a piece of your heart gone and an empty room in your home open again. Please reach out to your navigator today!

If you don't currently have a navigator and are interested in services please call 1-855-MICHKIDS(642-

