

Benefits of Engaging with your child

Short Term Benefits

- Shared Parenting Responsibilities
- Able to have Positive Role Models
- Emotional Support
- Helps Self Esteem
- Your child knows they are loved by more adults
- Helps the way the child sees themselves
- Better brain development
- Helps their cultural connections

Long Term Benefits

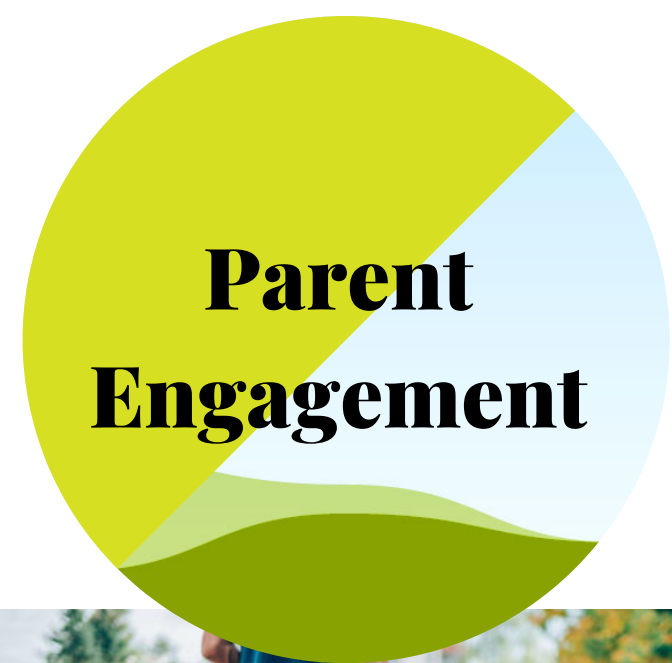
- Lowers the chances of early sexual activity, school failure, and involvement in criminal justice system.
- Greater chance of returning to their family, shorter lengths of out-of-home care, and fewer changes in foster homes.

(Coakley, Shears & Randolph, 2014)
(Martinez, Et al., 2013)

Co-parenting Resources:

Co-parenting your child brings a unique set of challenges. There are resources available to help navigate co-parenting:

- **OurFamilyWizard**
Ourfamilywizard.com
- **Co-parenting classes**
parenting.extension.wisc.edu
- **Individual or Joint counseling**



WOOD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Empowering Individuals by Offering Opportunities

111 West Jackson Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
(715) 421-8600



How our agency can support you in contacting your child

- Introductions or Reintroductions
- Build Appropriate Boundaries
- Parenting Classes
- Educational resources
- Connecting you with counseling
- Working with other agencies to help you with resources



Levels of Contact

There are plenty of ways that you can connect with your child. Not all of the following may be possible for you, but starting anywhere can be the beginning of a relationship with your child.

Levels of Contact Include:

- Letters
- Phone call
- Text message
- Social Media
- Email
- Virtual
- In-person visits

Next Steps?

Contact our agency to schedule a phone call or virtual meeting with your worker.

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Resources:

Coakley, T.M., Shears, J.K., & Randolph, S.D, (2014) Understanding Key Barriers to Fathers' Involvement in Their Children's Lives, Child & Youth Services, 35, 343-364.

Martinez, K., Rider, F., Cayce, N., Forssell, S., Poirier, J., Hunt, S., Crawford, G., & Sawyer, J. (2013). A Guide for Father Involvement in Systems of Care. Retrieved from https://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/AIR_Fatherhood_Guide_061413_0.pdf