

## Manage Transitions

All children in the child welfare system are faced with multiple transitions, starting with the removal from their birth families. These transitions include changes in placement, schools, separation from siblings, and loss of friends. Transitions have the potential to impact multiple parties, including children, foster families, siblings, etc. Cognizant of the effects of multiple moves on children, many child welfare systems implement supports and programs to try and alleviate the emotional trauma involved in these moves.

The National Resource Center for Adoption Model looks not only on the impact transitions have on children but the impact these transitions have on permanency outcomes. Effectively managing transitions involves implementing specific preparation for the children, foster and birth families; improving coordination between service providers who are or will be supporting the families; and proactively developing transition plans.

Managing transitions requires planning, strong linkages to multiple partners, asking difficult questions, and preparation and training to make the transitions as smooth as possible for all involved parties.