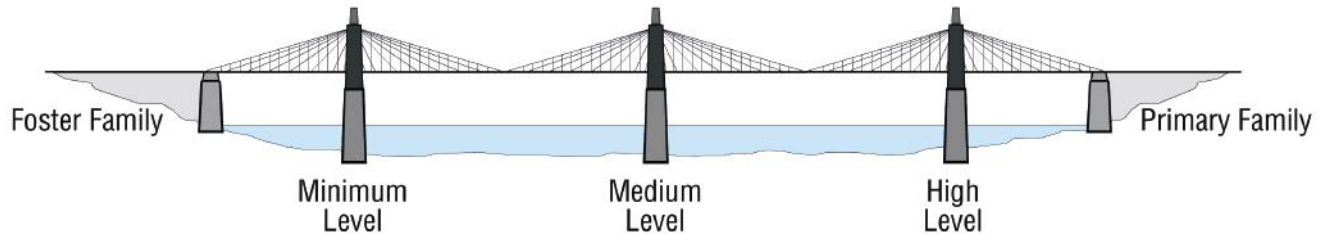


Bridging Contacts



Minimum level

- Recognize the child's family
- Display photos of the child's family members
- Learn family tree
- Celebrate birthdays
- Identify traditions
- Exchange letters
- Talk positively about the child's family
- Meet at the agency
- Call parents on the phone
- Give parents pictures of child
- Share copies of homework and report cards with parents
- Talk openly with the child about his or her family
- Encourage parents' progress
- Be upbeat and positive when talking to the child's family
- Dress child up for family visits
- Share child's progress with parents
- Arrange or host sibling visits

Medium level

- Make phone calls to parents and encourage parents to call as well
- Exchange visits
- Acknowledge parents' difficult situation
- Share school reports
- Update on child's progress
- Compliment the parents
- Ask questions
- Invite to appointments and school programs
- Assist with visitations
- Give encouragement
- Support sibling contact
- Talk with parents at family visits
- Maintain a respectful, non-threatening attitude
- Meet child's family at placement
- Refer to child as "your child" to primary parents
- Share parenting information
- Help parents find community resources
- Encourage and support reunification
- Share the child's lifebook with his or her parents
- Attend training to learn how to work with primary parents
- Learn about, understand, and respect the primary parents' culture and traditions
- Talk openly with the child about family visits

High level

- Serve as a mentor
- Give feedback
- Model skills
- Recommend community resources
- Provide respite care to parents following reunification
- Welcome parents into your home
- Arrange family visits with parents
- Serve as support to family following reunification
- Include primary parents in farewell activities following reunification

Adapted with permission from Denise A. Goodman, PhD (2010).