

## How can I help? 10 Roles for Relatives and Fictive Kin

1. Provide and share information about the child's family and history
2. Help the child remain safely at home:
  - Agree to check-in on the family/child's safety on a regular or as needed basis
  - Offer to provide weekend or evening respite or babysitting
  - Assist with transportation to school, doctor appointments or extracurricular activities
  - Be available for homework help calls or tutor the child
  - Support the caregiver in solving discipline/behavioral issues; Don't undermine their authority
  - Call the parent regularly to provide support and encouragement
  - Make the parent aware of your willingness to help
3. Attend agency meetings to support planning and be a decision-making partner with the child and family
4. If the child comes into care:
  - Visit with the child whenever possible, remembering the importance of being consistent
  - Call and/or send cards and letters to the child on birthdays, holidays and special occasions
  - Send encouraging/supportive notes to the child
  - Attend school functions, sports or extracurricular events
5. Support the child's racial, ethnic and community connections:
  - Take the child to religious/spiritual services
  - Participate in community events with the child
6. Assist with visitation between the child, parent(s) and others to maintain important family connections
7. Help keep siblings connected by hosting visits, phone calls and sharing of special events
8. Be an advocate for and voice of the child when needed
9. If financially able:
  - Take shopping for clothes, school supplies and athletic equipment
  - Pay fees necessary for participation in extracurricular events (sports, music)
10. Contribute to a scrap book/life book for the child to have