



There are many paths to lifelong connections.

What is Kinship?

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Kinship Care and Kinship Service are child welfare placement options, like fostering, for the small number of children and youth who need to leave their families for safety reasons.

Did you know?

In 2018-19, * on average

3,668

Ontario children and youth needing out of home placements were living with kinship families.

That means an average of

26%

of Ontario children and youth needing out of home placements were living with kinship families

How is kinship good for kids?

- It **reduces the stress** associated with coming into care, as in many cases the child/youth already knows what it is like to be in their kin's home.
- Family and community relationships are **preserved**.
- The child/youth can maintain their **cultural and religious ties**.
- The One Vision One Voice project to Better Serve African and Caribbean Canadians has made kinship a key recommendation in its Race Equity Practice Framework.
- It also addresses the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care by **keeping Indigenous families together**, where possible, and keeping children in culturally appropriate environments.



Children cared for by Kin are.**

Are less likely to have a mental health issue than foster children.

Are more likely to report positive emotional health compared to foster children.

Are less likely to experience three or more placements than foster children.

Are less likely to need mental health services than foster children.

Family Engagement

When children cannot be cared for by their parents or guardians, the next best placement for them is within their extended family or member of their community. The Society seeks extended family(kin) or members of the child's community (kith) to provide safe, nurturing, alternative living arrangements for children and young people at risk of neglect or abuse. This reduces stress for children coming into care, maintains family and community connections and increases the likelihood of the child's reunification with his/her primary family.

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**Other Ways You can be
Involved with a Child**

**What does a kinship
assessment entail?**

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