

Best Practices for Permanency Planning with Youth

1. Important First Step: Figure out how to go about and begin to develop a relationship with the youth that will allow you to have open communication about vulnerable issues, like permanency.
2. Ask the youth who is/was important to her/him.
3. Always use a strengths-based approach when working with youth – never assume any youth is inappropriate for a permanent connection.
4. It is important to understand the differences between “relational” versus placement-oriented permanency.
5. When developing a case plan, include a plan of action for youth who are resistant to (or who is working through their grief, loss, rejection, and fears) the concept of permanency and/or a specific relationship.
6. Prepare a plan for helping youth work through grief, loss, rejection, and fears.
7. Develop a plan to maintain connection with siblings and other biological or otherwise identified family.
8. Plan for post permanency support. In other words, after a permanent connection is established, how will it be nourished and supported? Who needs to be involved?
9. Always remember that permanency is the youth’s choice.