

FTDM Transition Planning Guide

Does everyone agree that this transition should be done with the child in mind?

How much time do we have until this transition has to/should happen?

Have we considered (and looked for) additional family members instead of foster care? Have we done background checks?

On what date should we make the actual move?

What does the child's therapist say about how to help the child transition to the new placement?

How are we introducing the new caregivers to the old ones?

How, when and where and how often should we introduce the new caregivers to the child
(Should be on the child's "home turf" to start, gradually progressing to overnights at the new caregivers.)

How can the child's parents be involved in assisting their child with the move?

How and when are we letting the child know about the move?

What does the child want to know about we're they're going?

What does the child want the new caregivers to know about them?

What are we using to pack the child's belongings in?

Who should help/be present when packing?

How will the current caregivers "send-off" the child?

What about school? Has a best interests determination been made about the child's school?

DAY OF THE MOVE

Who's taking the child to the new home?

(Should be old caregivers)

Who will be present during the hand-off?

(old and new caregivers, parents, SW? GAL?)

How will the old caregivers say goodbye?

Who should help in unpacking?

How can we all support the child's transition and (perhaps) grief?

AFTER THE MOVE

Where will the first visit take place between the old caregiver and the new caregiver?
(should occur within 3-5 days of the move, and at the new caregivers location (not at the old place!))

What about subsequent post-placement visits/check-ins?

How can the new caregivers keep in contact with previous caregivers about questions they might have about the child?

Are the old caregivers willing to provide respite care after the first few months following the transition (but not too soon—that may confuse the child!)

Who needs to be notified/told about the move?