

What Would Solomon Do?  
Supporting the Foster Care Child's Relationship with the Biological Parent  
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Speak positively about the parent and reassure the child that the parent loves them

*"Your mommy loves you very much and I'm sure she misses you"*

*"Your mommy is very pretty"*

Be honest and sensitive when discussing the legal proceedings

*"Your mommy loves you very much, but she has made some bad choices."*

*"Your mommy has to take some classes so that she can learn how to take better care of you and your brother/"*

*"Your parents have to do what the Judge tells them before you can go home."*

Model supportive behavior in the presence of the child

Greet the parent in a supportive and respectful manner

- Hug the parent if appropriate
- Share information about the child
- Receive any gifts in an appreciative manner

Place a framed photo of the parent in the child's bedroom

Support the role of the biological parent

Be responsive if the child talks about the biological family/parents

Respect the visitation schedule

Encourage the child to enjoy gifts purchased by the parent

Set aside graded schoolwork and art projects while telling the child you are going to share it with the parent. With report cards-remove any identifying information with respect to the school attended by the child if necessary.

Reassure the child that the parent is working hard to regain custody (if true)

Scheduling of the visits

Allow for a period of transition before and after the visits

Do not schedule activities directly before or after the visits

Avoid scheduling the visits during a time when a special event is scheduled  
(Party or outing)

Post a calendar with the visitation times marked.

If the child acts out before or after visits

Mention to the child you notice a change in behaviors before/after visits

Reinforce to the child that it is okay to have feelings about the visits, but that

It is not okay to hurt others/break things/be disrespectful

Brainstorm transitional activities/appropriate outlets for dealing with feelings

Empathize with the child that you are aware this is a difficult time for him or her

Remind the child that you do care

Set limits on inappropriate behaviors

Reach out to the therapist or case manager who is supervising the visits