

A select bibliography on themes from the IFCO conference

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Preparing for managed care in residential treatment/ Mordock, John B.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 15(3) 1998 pp55-68

To prepare for managed care in child welfare, foster care agencies in the US need to adapt to a number of upcoming changes in practice. They may need to change a program oriented administrative structure to a geographically oriented one; form networks of service providers; develop specific practice guidelines for delineated client groups; determine the true costs of care for these client groups in preparation for capitated financing; develop family case management practices, family friendly services and client satisfaction surveys; become more politically active in a wider professional arena; and learn to work in tandem with child protective service workers in public agencies. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** residential treatment; foster care; child welfare; families; health services; mental health services; service provision; administration; organisational change; social services; funding. **Identifiers:** managed care.

The Looking After Children materials/ Bell, Margaret
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 22(4) Winter 1998/99
pp15-23

Some key issues in the use of the Looking After Children materials, which arose from their use by a group of social work students and practitioners, are discussed. Overall, the practitioners were positive about the materials, but concerns were raised that the Assessment and Action Records were not necessarily the most effective or child-centred way of collecting information. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** social work; practice issues; professional information. **Identifiers:** Looking After Children.

Improving the health of children and young people leaving care/ Broad, Bob
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(1) Spring 1999 pp40-48

Broad identifies the health of care leavers as an emerging and significant issue in child care and, based on empirical findings, argues that improvements to their health are needed as a matter of some urgency. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** leaving care; health.

Setting new national standards for foster care/ Warren, Derek
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(2) Summer 1999 pp48-56

Warren examines the background to the new national standards for foster care recently published in the UK and discusses their implications for future service provision. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** standards.

'It's just common sense isn't it?': Exploring ways of putting the theory of resilience into action/ Daniel, Brigid; Wassell, Sally; Gilligan, Robbie
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(3) Autumn 1999 pp6-15

The authors describe a pilot project aimed at exploring the feasibility of putting ideas from the concept of resilience into action, in order to promote the emotional well-being of children in care. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** resilience.

'Looking After Children' in the Victorian out of home care system/ Wise, Sarah

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION 7(1) Autumn 1999 pp8-9
'Looking After Children' (LAC) was developed in the UK as a tool to assist the out of home care of children and young people. A brief overview is presented of the evaluation of a pilot LAC program that has been running in Victoria. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** Australia; Victoria **Keywords:** children in care; child health; well being; evaluation. **Identifiers:** Looking After Children.

Questioning the new orthodoxy: the 'Looking After Children' (LAC) system and its discourse on parenting/ Garrett, Paul Michael
PRACTICE 11(1) 1999 pp53-64

This paper sets out to explore aspects of 'parenting' as featured in the discourse centred on the Looking After Children system. Whilst acknowledging the need for reform in the interests of 'looked after' children and young people, the discussion seeks to illuminate problems, ambiguities and contradictions associated with the 'parenting' construct which lies at the heart of the scheme. (Journal abstract) **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** parenting. **Identifiers:** Looking After Children.

All in a day's work: resources for teaching life skills/ Wolf, Merrily; Copeland, Wanda; Nollan, Kimberly A.
JOURNAL OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE 12(4) 1998
pp1-10

To teach life skills effectively to children in out-of-home care, caregivers must be cognisant of the range of skills that promote independence, have a means to measure skill acquisition, and have a framework within which to teach the skills. This article integrates these three areas by describing a tool that caregivers can use to recognise age-appropriate life skills and measure youth competencies. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** independence; life skills.

What makes good outcomes for children in foster care?/ Leahy, Roslyn et al

CHILDREN AUSTRALIA 24(2) 1999 pp4-9
The article describes one agency's strategies in developing benchmarks for best practice outcomes in fostering. **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** standards. **Identifiers:** best practice.

**Special issue : Family foster care in the next century/
CHILD WELFARE 78(1) Jan/Feb 1999**

This special issue looks at the future of family foster care in the US. It contains the following articles: Family foster care in the next century, by Kathy Barbell and Lois Wright; Data-driven child welfare policy and practice in the next century, by Marie Jamieson and Jami M. Bodonyi; Measuring performance in child welfare: secondary effects of success, by Charles L. Usher, Judith B. Wildfire, and Deborah A. Gibbs; Satisfaction of children in out-of-home care, by Leslie Wilson and James Conroy; Concurrent planning: benefits and pitfalls, by Linda Katz; Shared family care: providing services to parents and children placed together in out-of-home care, by Richard P. Barth and Amy Price; Professional foster care: a future worth pursuing? by Mark F. Testa and Nancy Rolock; Completing the evaluation triangle for the next century: measuring child 'well-being' in family foster care, by Sandra J. Altshuler and James P. Gleeson; Starting young: improving the health of infants and toddlers in the child welfare system, by Mark D. Sims et al; The impact of drug-exposed children on family foster care, by Theresa McNichol; Evaluation of a training program for foster parents of infants with prenatal substance effects, by Caroline L. Burry. **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** family foster care; child welfare; forecasting; social policy; service provision; performance appraisal; client satisfaction; planning; family reunification; models; shared family care; professional foster care; evaluation; health services; mental health services; substance abuse; infants; foster carers; training.

Specialist leaving care/aftercare services/ Wardley, S.; Mackiewicz, P.

In: 1998 ACWA Conference 'Improving services for children, youth and families' : conference proceedings, pp118-125 **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** substitute care; foster care; leaving care; youth; social services; child protection. (Australian Family & Society Abstracts, AIFS)

Minority populations in the child welfare system: the visibility hypothesis reexamined/ Garland, Ann F. et al AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ORTHOPSYCHIATRY 68(1) Jan 1998 pp142-146

This study tests the 'visibility hypothesis,' which suggests that there is a higher probability for minority children to be placed in foster care when living in geographic locations where their proportions in the population are relatively low, compared to areas where their proportions are high. Results support the hypothesis for African-American youth only. Explanations of the findings, and their implications for research and practice, are discussed. (Journal abstract) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** child welfare; minorities; foster care; research. **Identifiers:** visibility hypothesis.

Mediation in kinship care: another step in the provision of culturally relevant child welfare services/ Wilhelmus, Maria

SOCIAL WORK 43(2) Mar 1998 pp117-126

As an ethnocentrically designed child welfare system grapples with how best to incorporate kinship care into its array of services, conflicts between kinship caregivers and the foster care system have arisen. It is suggested that the application of mediation to conflicts in agency-kinship family relationships

can serve as yet another step in social workers' efforts to provide culturally relevant child welfare services. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** foster care; families; cultural differences; child welfare; mediation; conflict resolution; social work. **Identifiers:** kinship care.

Infants entering foster care compared to other infants using birth status indicators/ Needell, Barbara; Barth, Richard P.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT 22(12) Dec 1998 pp1179-1187

Logit regression was used to compare 26,460 maltreated infants who entered foster care between 1989 and 1994 with a random sample of 68,401 other infants born during that time. Infants in care were more than twice as likely to have single parents and be born with low birthweight and twice as likely to have been born with an abnormality as other infants. The largest difference was in the eightfold increased likelihood for mothers of infants in care to have had no prenatal care. Infants in care were nearly three times as likely to be born into larger families. Mothers of infants in care were more than twice as likely to be African American compared to White, while Hispanic and Other ethnic groups were under-represented in the group of infants in care. Foreign born mothers were much less likely to have infants in care than they were to have children in the other group. (Abstract amended)

Country/State: USA **Keywords:** child abuse; child neglect; infants; foster care; kinship care; family group homes; mothers; substance abuse; ethnic groups; child development; intervention; research.

Building positive self-image in adolescents in foster care: The use of role models in an interactive group approach/ Yancey, Antronette K.

ADOLESCENCE 33(130) Summer 1998 pp253-267

This article describes the development of a pilot preventive mental health intervention, the PRIDE (Personal and Racial/ethnic Identity Development and Enhancement) program, designed to provide components of parenting that are necessary for promoting positive self-image in ethnically marginalised adolescents and that are typically lacking in the group foster care milieu. PRIDE utilises successful, ethnically relevant role models in interactive group sessions to create a significant cognitive and emotional experience for teens. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** adolescence; foster children; self esteem; role models; mental health; cultural differences; identity; programs. **Identifiers:** Personal and Racial/ethnic Identity Development and Enhancement; PRIDE.

Cultural and other factors related to the process of emancipation from foster care/ Tovar, Daniel D.; Briggs, Harold E.

JOURNAL OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE 12(4) 1998 pp11-29

This article discusses the process leading to emancipation from foster care and the need for more effective intervention as well as further research of relevant outcomes. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** leaving care.

Caregivers of children with sexual behavior problems: psychological and familial functioning/ Pithers, William D. et al

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT 22(2) Feb 1998 pp129-141

This research examined demographic and functional characteristics of parents of children with sexual behaviour problems. A sample of 72 children with sexual behaviour problems took part in the study. As a group, caregivers manifested signs of a high level of life stress across a wide array of variables, including income, criminal arrest, family violence, sexual abuse, social support, modulation of emotion, and attachment to their child. Foster parents consistently reported significantly lower levels of stress than biological parents. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** children; sexual behaviour; behaviour problems; sex offenders; parents; foster carers; family functioning; child sexual abuse; child abuse; stress; research.

Sir William Utting highlights important difficult legal issues which affect children living away from home/ Utting, William

CHILDRIGHT (143) Jan/Feb 1998 pp2-4

Sir William Utting explains legal issues affecting children living away from home which he raised in 'People like us: the report of the review of the safeguards for children living away from home'. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** children in care; residential care; foster care; child abuse; child sexual abuse; paedophilia; offenders; child care workers; children's rights; parents' responsibilities.

Social information-processing patterns as predictors of social adaptation and behavior problems among maltreated children in foster care/ Price, Joseph M.; Landsverk, John
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT 22(9) Sept 1998 pp845-858

The goal of this investigation was to determine if social information-processing patterns were predictive of later social adaptation and behaviour problems within a group of maltreated children in foster care. A longitudinal design was used to address the study hypotheses. The sample consisted of 124 maltreated children aged 5-10 who had been placed in foster care. Twelve months following entrance into foster care, children were presented with age-relevant hypothetical vignettes to assess the quality of the way in which they process social information. Six to eight months following this assessment, caregivers completed the Vineland Adaptive Scales and the Child Behavior Checklist. The findings suggest that the manner in which maltreated children process social information has a bearing on their later social adaptation and behavioural adjustment. Therefore, maltreated children in foster care may benefit from interventions which target the manner in which they process social information. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** child abuse; child neglect; foster care; children in care; adjustment; social aspects; problem solving; behaviour problems; research. **Identifiers:** social information-processing; Vineland Adaptive Scales; Child Behaviour Checklist.

'It must be because ...': non-biological care and mental health, Part I. Setting the context/ O'Neill, Cas; Absler, Deborah

CHILDREN AUSTRALIA 23(3) 1998 pp4-8

This article (the first of a series of three) reviews the research and literature on the connections between non-biological care (adoption, permanent care, foster care and residential care) and mental health and relates this to the policy context in Victoria. The implication of the over-representation of children who have experienced non-biological care in a mental health setting are explored. (Journal abstract) **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** children in care; mental health; children; adolescence; adoption; foster care; residential care; research; longitudinal studies; literature reviews.

'It must be because ...': Non-biological care and mental health : Part II. The pattern of referrals to Alfred Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service/ O'Neill, Cas
CHILDREN AUSTRALIA 24(1) 1999 pp24-29

This article, the second of a series of three, reports on research aimed at establishing whether children who had experienced non-biological care presented to a Melbourne Child and Adolescent Mental Health Centre (CAMHS) in higher numbers than would be expected, given their prevalence in the population, and, if so, whether their diagnostic profile was more serious than a control group at the same CAMHS. It was found that children in non-biological care are indeed referred to this CAMHS in far greater numbers than would be expected. The findings also suggest that this group's parents and caregivers rate their problems as higher and their competencies as lower than the control group. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** children in care; out of home care; foster care; adoption; mental health; mental health services; research; comparative studies. **Identifiers:** Achenbach Child Behaviour Checklist; CBCL.

'It must be because ...': Non-biological care and mental health : Part III. Who refers - and why?/ O'Neill, Cas; Absler, Deborah

CHILDREN AUSTRALIA 24(2) 1999 pp20-25

This article, the final of a series of three, looks at how and why children are referred for psychiatric help, then presents an analysis of referrals to a Melbourne child and adolescent mental health service. Analysis of the referral sources for two groups of children (those who had experienced non-biological care and those who had not) showed very different patterns. In contrast, analysis of the presenting problems showed that the difference between the two groups of children was not as marked as had been expected. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** mental health.

The long term care of children with disabilities: is family the only way?/ Bain, Kevin

CHILDREN AUSTRALIA 23(3) 1998 pp9-16

Some families need to place their disabled child in long-term out-of-home care, due to a high care burden. Foster family care is increasingly the only option available. While published research is sparse, there is evidence that rostered staff models of care are more appropriate for some children and the potential gains from family care are overstated. Questions are raised about foster care successes overseas and locally,

particularly as care options are restricted to in-home support or alternative family models. Rostered staff models can promote a child's involvement with the birth family and should be developed further. Planners need to foster diversity, which allows flexibility and promises new knowledge. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** disabilities; child care; foster care; respite care; behaviour problems; attachment; carers; families; family relationships; stress; government; policy.

Unlocking the past: The experience of gaining access to Barnardo's records/ Pugh, Gill; Schofield, Gillian
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(2) Summer 1999 pp7-18

A small-scale qualitative study looked at the experiences of 12 adults who had been in the care of the Barnardo's agency during childhood, and who had recently sought information on their backgrounds. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** information access.

Growing up in foster care/ Schofield, Gillian et al
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(3) Autumn 1999 pp65-66

A brief overview is given of a longitudinal study into long-term foster care. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** long term foster care.

The impact of childhood foster care and other out-of-home placement on homeless women and their children/ Zlotnick, Cheryl; Robertson, Majorie J.; Wright, Marguerite A.
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT 23(11) Nov 1999 pp1057-1068

The study compares homeless women who had childhood histories of foster care or other out-of-home placement to those who have not. The findings suggest that programs promoting family preservation for homeless mothers should include parenting support. **Keywords:** homelessness; parenting.

Caregiver substance abuse among maltreated children placed in out-of-home care/ Besinger, Bridgett A. et al
CHILD WELFARE 78(2) Mar/Apr 1999 pp221-239

Seventy-nine per cent of the caregivers of a sample of 639 US children placed in out-of-home care due to maltreatment, were abusing substances. The importance of operational specificity in defining caregiver substance abuse and implications for policy and service delivery are discussed. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** substance abuse.

Behaviorally impaired children in out-of-home care/ Kupsinel, Morgan M.; Dubsky, Darnell D.
CHILD WELFARE 78(2) Mar/Apr 1999 pp297-310

This study into the nature of the out-of-home care placement experience for behaviourally impaired children showed that behavioural impairment was the strongest predictor of length of time in care. **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** behaviour problems.

The status of older adolescents at exit from out-of-home care/ McMillen, J. Curtis; Tucker, Jayne
CHILD WELFARE 78(3) May/June 1999 pp339-360

Results of a study of older youths leaving out-of-home care showed that most left without a job or a high school diploma, and many left with neither. Most of them had been living with relatives, either through planned or unplanned reunification. **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** adolescence; leaving care.

Children on move: Stability and continuity for looked after children/ Jackson, Sonia; Thomas, Nigel
CHILDRIGHT Jul/Aug 1999 pp9-11

This short item gives an overview of a report on the need for stability of placements for children in care. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** placement; foster care disruption.

Behavior problems and mental health contacts in adopted, foster, and nonadopted children/ Brand, Ann E.; Brinich, Paul M.

JOURNAL OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY AND ALLIED DISCIPLINES 40(8) Nov 1999 pp1221-1229

Results of the study reported here suggest that adopted and foster children are more likely to have mental health contacts than nonadopted children. Results are mixed regarding whether adopted and foster children have more behaviour problems than nonadopted children. **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** mental health; behaviour problems.

The relationship between problem disclosure, coping strategies and placement outcome in foster adolescents/ Browne, Deborah C.

JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENCE 21(5) Oct 1998 pp85-97

Problem disclosure and coping strategies in 21 foster adolescents were examined. Results showed that teenagers who have experienced crisis foster placements were more likely to disclose concern over parent and authority control over their lives. They also seemed more likely to use non-productive coping strategies when dealing with everyday problems. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** Ireland **Keywords:** disclosure; coping behaviours; adolescence.

Treating children in out-of-home placements/ Rosen, Marvin

New York : Haworth, c1998 ; xvi, 197 p. **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** child abuse; children in care; children's services; treatment; foster care. (Library Online Information System)

Group review report : the experiences and progress of 17 young people in substitute care/ New South Wales.

Community Services Commission

Surry Hills, NSW : Community Services Commission, 1999; 76 p.

Country/State: Australia; New South Wales **Keywords:** substitute care; case studies; adolescents; youth; community services; foster care. (Australian Family and Society Abstracts, AIFS)

Outcome measures in child protection : international literature review and critical analysis of child protection and alternative placement outcome measures : final report and annotated bibliography/ Gain, L.; Young, L.
Melbourne, Vic : Productivity Commission, 1998 ; 106 p. + 82 p. annotated bibliography. **Country/State:** international
Keywords: child protection; substitute care; foster care; literature reviews; theory; measures; intervention; evaluation.

Participatory management in a public child welfare agency: a key to effective change/ Pine, Barbara A.; Warsh, Robin; Maluccio, Anthony N.
ADMINISTRATION IN SOCIAL WORK 22(1) 1998 pp19-32

The authors examine participatory management, using a case example drawn from their experience as consultants to a public child welfare agency. The approach to consultation called for the formation of an interdisciplinary task force, comprising agency staff, foster parents, court personnel, and community service providers, with the aim to improve the agency's performance in reunifying children and families separated by foster care placement. A case example is used to illustrate successful planning and implementing of participatory approaches, especially in large bureaucratic organisations. (Journal abstract) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** social work; administration; nongovernment organisations; management; organisational change; case studies; multidisciplinary teams; foster care; planning. **Identifiers:** participatory management; family reunification.

Family to family: reconstructing foster care in the US/ Mattingly, John B.

CHILDREN AND SOCIETY 12(3) June 1998 pp180-184
The public child welfare system in North America is faced with growing deprivation, rising numbers of children who need out-of-home placements for increasingly lengthy periods, and a shortage of foster carers. The Family to Family initiative offers public agencies funds and tools to help them strengthen family support services within the communities from which children enter the system, improve the quantity and quality of neighbourhood-based foster carers and develop the capacity to collect and analyse outcome data. (Journal abstract)
Country/State: USA **Keywords:** children in care; foster care; family support services. **Identifiers:** Family to Family.

Children in kinship foster care speak out: 'We think we're doing fine'/ Altshuler, Sandra J.
CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL June 1999 pp215-235

Six American children, currently living in kinship foster care, were interviewed to explore successful aspects of the kinship foster care experience from the children's perspective.
Country/State: USA **Keywords:** kinship foster care.

Annotation: Outcomes in long-term foster family care/ Minty, Brian
JOURNAL OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY AND ALLIED DISCIPLINES 40(7) Oct 1999 pp991-999

This annotation focuses on outcomes for long-term foster care in the UK, USA, Canada, and France. Some findings were that

early admission and late discharge both appeared to be associated with better outcomes, and that outcomes are generally much better than current professional prejudice suggests. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** long term foster care; outcomes.

Educational success for looked-after children: the social worker's responsibility/ Jackson, Sonia
PRACTICE 10(4) 1998 pp47-56

This article reports findings from the author's research on high achievers who have been in care and urges social workers to recognise the promotion and support of looked after children's education as a central part of their role. (Abstract amended)
Country/State: UK **Keywords:** education; social workers.

Surviving the care system: education and resilience/ Jackson, Sonia; Martin, Pearl Y.
JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENCE 21(5) Oct 1998 pp569-583

This study looked at a group of high achievers who had grown up in care. Educational success was found to be a crucial factor for their outcomes. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** children in care; education. **Identifiers:** resilience.

From carers to actual parents : issues of practice and legislative reform in permanent care/ Poulter, J.

Unpublished. Paper presented at the 6th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference, Melbourne, Nov 1998
Country/State: Australia **Keywords:** foster care; foster carers; parents; law reform; Aborigines; attachment; children welfare; intervention; genetic parents. (Australian Family and Society Abstracts, AIFS)

Options for permanency: an overview/ McDaniel, Nancy; Merkel-Holguin, Lisa; Brittain, Charmaine
PROTECTING CHILDREN 13(3) 1997 pp4-9

In examining the options available for the permanent placement of children, the authors examine the key concepts of the process and give an overview of the options, which are: long-term foster care; guardianship; kinship care; and adoption.
Country/State: USA **Keywords:** child protection; children in care; placement; permanency planning; long term foster care; guardianship; adoption. **Identifiers:** kinship foster care.

Shared parenting: assessing the success of a foster parent program aimed at family reunification/ Landy, Sarah; Munro, Sheila

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT 22(4) Apr 1998 pp305-318

There were two main objectives of the study: 1) to assess the effectiveness of a model of family reunification which united the role of parent aide and foster parent; and 2) to determine which characteristics of the families with children in care were associated with reunification. Families were recruited from five Canadian child protection agencies to participate in a program in which foster parents became extended rather than substitute families. The success of the project was determined by whether the child was able to return home or if the program facilitated permanency planning. Its success was also examined by considering the relationship between returning home and a number of risk factors measured in the families with children

in care. Results indicated that although the treatment model has excellent potential with less at-risk families, it could not meet the treatment needs of the majority of families with children in foster care in the five child protection agencies. It is recommended that this model could be most helpful offered through parent aides attached to community support agencies which could provide respite care, support and resources to families as needed, thus avoiding the child's having to be placed in care. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** Canada
Keywords: foster carers; training; foster children; child abuse; family support services; extended family; prevention programs; families; parent education; at risk children; research.
Identifiers: family reunification; Shared Parenting project

Effects in adulthood of separations and long-term foster care: a French research study/ Dumaret, Annick-Camille; Coppel-Batsch, Marthe
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 22(1) Spring 1998 pp31-39

The authors discuss findings from a French research study into outcomes for adults formerly placed in long-term foster care. The aim of the research was to measure the effects of adverse childhood experiences when followed by a minimum of five years' continuous care in a stable environment. A number of viewpoints were obtained during the course of the study, including those of foster carers and the agency through which all the placements in question were made. However, the findings in this article largely concentrate on the feelings, aspirations and living situations of a sample of 63 young adults, interviewed at least five years after leaving care. Despite clearly varied outcomes, the authors conclude that a stable care environment, backed up by substantial educational and psychotherapeutic support, can go a long way towards helping children separated from their birth families achieve satisfactory social integration in adulthood. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** France **Keywords:** long term foster care; children in care; trauma; outcomes; adults; integration; social aspects; research.

Foster carers who cease to foster/ Triseliotis, John; Borland, Moira; Hill, Malcolm
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 2(2) Summer 1998 pp54-61

A study found that the number of foster carers leaving the service was less than expected but of those who ceased to foster, almost three-fifths did so because of dissatisfaction with the operation of some aspect of the fostering services, including the children's problems. Few differences were found between the characteristics or motivation of those who ceased and those who continued to foster. Neither was it found that carers who left the service did so without much prior thought and consideration. Many of the reasons quoted by those who left were also in the thoughts of almost half of continuing carers. This and other parts of the study point to the need for much greater responsiveness, availability and general support to be provided for all carers, along with the promotion of much more teamwork and partnership between them and the fostering services. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** foster carers; motivation; stress; foster care disruption; foster children; behaviour problems; parent professional relationships; research.

Foster families: the bigger the better?/ Ogdan, Joy
FOSTER CARE (95) Oct 1998 pp12-14

Brothers and sisters are bound together by an undergrowth of shared memories, common experiences and genetic inheritance. They often argue and compete for attention but hacking at their roots can leave them bereft and isolated. Most professionals and lay people agree that siblings who are fostered should remain in a group unless there are specific reasons why this would not work. The author has spoken to foster carers who look after larger sibling groups. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** foster care; foster children; siblings; placement; foster carers; families.

Kinship care: False dawn or new hope?/ Ainsworth, Frank; Maluccio, Anthony N.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORK 51(4) Dec 1998 pp3-8
This article draws attention to the increased use of kinship care as a form of out-of-home care for children in Australia. It presents the findings of recent US research on family reunification from kinship care and on the outcome of kinship care can be developed to assist practitioners in decision making. (Journal abstract) **Country/State:** Australia; USA **Keywords:** kinship care; research; foster care; social work; practice issues. **Identifiers:** family reunification.

The concept of family: Perceptions of adults who were in long-term out-of-home care as children/ Gardner, Helen
CHILD WELFARE 77(6) Nov/Dec 1998 pp681-700

The author presents findings from a study in which adults fostered as children identified current family members. Those who included biological parents among their family members reported conflicted relationships, but also spoke of love. In contrast, those who omitted their biological parents seemed angrier, were more likely to have been abused, and were visited less by their biological parents. Those who included their foster parents described feeling loved, said they were not discriminated against, and received ongoing support after leaving care. Those who omitted members of their foster families overwhelmingly described feeling unloved and uncared for, said they were abused, devalued, and discriminated against; and received no continuing support. (Journal abstract) **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** foster children; adults; perception; families; long term foster care; research.

Kinship care in the United States/ McFadden, Emily Jean
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 22(3) Autumn 1998 pp7-15

Within the last decade in the USA kinship care has evolved from an infrequently utilised option for temporary care and/or permanence, to a widely used and often preferred solution for children in need of care. The author discusses the background to this development and how it is related to the rising placement of children of colour, particularly African American children and adolescents who are over-represented in the American foster care system. Wide professional recognition of the importance of culture in identity formation and advocacy by professional groups has led to the acknowledgement of kinship care as a preferred placement option. It is now used extensively in many states, both in informal care which takes place outside of court intervention and in the formal foster care system.

(Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** kinship care; foster care; placement; permanency planning; culture; identity; legal issues; policy; carers; children; models.

The systemic family approach to foster care assessment: a review and update/ McCracken, Sylvia; Reilly, Isobel
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 22(3) Autumn 1998 pp16-27

In this article the authors apply systemic theory and practice to the assessment of foster carers. The authors believe that insufficient attention is paid to the foster carers' family context and propose that the systemic approach provides a useful framework with which to address the complexities of fostering. Their systemic position derives from both the research findings on fostering outcomes and the recently articulated voices of the birth children of foster carers. Beginning with an analysis of the concerns currently impacting on fostering services and the aims which assessment is expected to achieve, the authors review and update the application of the systemic approach in foster care. An assessment model is developed, based on the premise that the foster family as a whole serves as the context for any placement. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** foster care; foster carers; children; assessment; models; family systems theory. **Identifiers:** biological children of foster carers.

Leaving care and extended families/ Marsh, Peter
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 22(4) Winter 1988/99 pp6-14

The UK Children Act 1989 seeks to improve the situation for care leavers by encouraging partnership between the young people themselves, their birth families and carers. The article examines some of the ways in which these three groups are, and could be, more positively involved in the decisions and events leading up to leaving care, and, in particular, how extended families might be encouraged to lend more support. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** leaving care; support; birth parents; extended families.

Assessing and matching foster care relationships: An interactional framework/ Street, Eddy; Davies, Mike
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(2) Summer 1999 pp31-41

The authors explore ideas behind the current typical professional response to the placement of children in foster care and its breakdown. They discuss theories of family functioning in terms of their relevance to the assessment of the fostering relationship and outline a model of assessment based on the theory of Behavioural Exchange, which uses checklists of children and questionnaires for adults. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** placement planning; Behavioural Exchange; assessment; models.

Foster carers speak about training/ Minnish, Helen; Devine, Clare; Pelosi, Tony
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(2) Summer 1999 pp42-47

This study, part of a larger research project, examines the effect of foster carer training on the emotions and behaviour of looked after children. The training program aimed to enable foster carers to develop communication skills and to learn how

to cope with their foster children's feelings and behaviour. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** foster carers; training.

The tangible and intangible rewards of fostering for carers/ Butler, Sandra; Charles, Marian
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING 23(3) Autumn 1999 pp48-58

A small-scale research project examined the dynamics involved in substitute family placements for young people, and assessed the processes demonstrated in fostering breakdowns in terms of the interactions, negotiations and adjustments between the respective parties over time. **Country/State:** UK **Keywords:** foster care disruption; rewards of fostering.

Foster carers: The invisible network/ Cusack, Michael; Orr, Beverley
AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD 24(1) Mar 1999 pp15-18

The paper examines the reasons behind the lack of acknowledgment of the contribution to social cohesion by the 10,000 foster carers in Australia's child support system. **Keywords:** foster carers.

Child welfare professionals' attitudes toward kinship foster care/ Beeman, Sandra; Boisen, Laura
CHILD WELFARE 78(3) May/June 1999 pp315-337

When surveyed, a group of child welfare professionals were found to have generally positive perceptions of kinship foster parents' motivations and competence, and of kinship foster care. They also believed that kinship placements were more difficult to supervise than nonkin placements, and that agencies needed to make changes in practice and policy to accommodate kin. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** USA **Keywords:** kinship foster care; professional attitudes.

Why don't they become foster carers?/ Keogh, Louise; Svensson, Ulla
CHILDREN AUSTRALIA 24(2) 1999 pp13-19

A study of the foster carer recruitment process experienced by 91 Victorian enquirers found that only four percent had become carers. The authors discuss the need for more effective ways to follow up callers. **Country/State:** Australia **Keywords:** foster carers; recruitment.

Enhancing the resilience of children and young people in public care by mentoring their talents and interests /Gilligan, Robbie

CHILD AND FAMILY SOCIAL WORK, 4, 1999 pp187-196

It is argued that the progress and resilience of young people in public care can be greatly enhanced by attention to the value of cultural, sporting and other activities in their lives. Sensitive mentoring of the young person in these activities by concerned adults - members of the child's social network or volunteers - can foster the potential of the young person, build self-esteem, strengthen mental health and open new social relationships beyond the care system. A series of case illustrations are used to demonstrate how such involvement in activities can greatly improve the prospects for a more successful transition out of care. (Abstract amended) **Country/State:** Republic of Ireland **Keywords:** children in public care; leisure time interests, mentoring; resilience; talents.