

Respite care is a support to resource families, in which another approved provider cares for the child for a temporary, short-term period of time. Respite care is used for these purposes:

- to ensure that siblings who are placed separately have time together,
- to maintain children's connections with their extended birth family or ties to their home community,
- to give resource parents and children a "break" from each other when necessary to preserve the relationship/placement,
- to provide foster youth in group care with family experiences, and
- to explore the parent/child fit in a potential placement change (for example, with a pre-adoptive family)

Resource families can request respite through the agency social worker. Please note that respite care funded through the foster care system must be with an agency-approved provider/family. Social events and outings that are a part of the child's normal developmental experience – for example, a sleepover at a friend's house or a church day-trip – are not considered to be formal respite care. Families should check with the child's worker to see if there are any local requirements.