

Challenges...

The challenges of helping children in kinship care may leave some caregivers feeling frustrated and overwhelmed from:

- Lack of emotional support
- Limited knowledge or understanding of the children in their care
- Feeling isolated and alone
- Lack of information or assistance in the process of adoption or guardianship
- Financial hardship caused by having an additional person in their care
- Changing role from relative, friend or neighbor to that of primary caregiver
- Difficulties surrounding visitation or reunification

Children in kinship care may have emotional and behavioral issues resulting from:

- Separation, grief and loss from family and other support systems
- Multiple placements
- Difficulty connecting with caregivers
- Prenatal exposure to drugs and/or alcohol
- Abuse or neglect

Recognizing the truth and beauty of the old African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child," we have come to understand that it takes the commitment of many caring people dedicated to the well-being of a child to bring him or her safely into responsible adulthood.

About us...

Kids & Families Together is a not-for-profit organization that provides a safe, supportive resource, education, and counseling center where families and the community can meet and share information regarding foster, kinship, and adoptive care.

Our mission is to strengthen relationships and help provide safe, supportive help and education that keeps families emotionally connected to one another.



"Our Center"

Kids & Families Together

Serving Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Families

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Kids & Families Together

Serving Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Families

- ♥ Building Relationships
- ♥ Strengthening Families
- ♥ Enhancing Attachment

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care, sometimes referred to as “relative care,” is the full-time parenting of children by grandparents, other relatives, neighbors or friends of the family.

These courageous, caring individuals have stepped in when parents have been unable to raise the children for reasons such as: addiction, incarceration, military service, physical or mental illness.



*“Our family was not alone.
We discovered that other
families were going through
the same thing.”*

Kinship Support Services Program



At Kids & Families Together, services are provided by professionals knowledgeable and sensitive to kinship care issues faced by many of these families.

Kinship Support & Resources Group

We hold monthly support groups for kinship parents who are facing the challenges of raising the child of a relative or friend. Topics of discussion vary but may include:

- ♥ Guardianship and other placement options
- ♥ Challenging behaviors
- ♥ Navigating the Child Welfare system
- ♥ How to find necessary resources

Visit www.kidsandfamilies.org for locations, days and times.

Education & Support

- ♥ Family support specialists provide in-home education and support services to eligible families.
- ♥ Educational workshops and support groups help caregivers better understand the children in their care and give them tools to help their families thrive.
- ♥ Kinship Peer Partner & Educator Program pairs kinship caregivers with new caregivers to help them navigate through community resources and systems.

Counseling Services

Personalized family counseling enhances the bonds of attachment. Our clinical staff uses two treatment models: Theraplay® and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP). Children may be eligible for services through Medi-Cal.

On-Site Library

A library of books, videos, and other resources related to kinship care, foster care and adoption are available.

Community Resources

Ventura County has additional supports and services that can help Kinship families grow and thrive. Kids & Families Together connects caregivers with organizations such as:

- ♥ **VC Community College's Foster & Kinship Care Education** - provides free training on topics relevant to kinship families.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** - K&FT provides perishable and non-perishable food for foster youth and kinship families.
- ♥ Other community services such as self-help legal access, clothing, housing, financial and other assistance.

In addition, Kids & Families Together may be able to access financial support through the Ventura County Human Services Agency. If funding is available, this may include safety equipment, beds and furniture.