



### Resource Family Retention

Retention efforts are a critical component to maintaining a trained and skilled group of viable resources in any community. Resource families who feel valued and respected are less likely to burn out. This leads to longer term placement for children and youth. Veteran Resource Families are also our best recruiters.

- A. It is much less work to retain an existing foster parent than it is to recruit a new one. We can support this by providing resource families with *excellent customer service*.
- B. The prompt return of phone calls and clear respectful communication are among the most important pieces of retention work that we can do.
- C. Training opportunities
  - Foundation Training for Foster and Kinship Caregivers
  - Advanced Training provided by CWTP
  - Conferences relevant to Caregivers
  - View [Caregiver Training Collaborative Calendar](#) for a listing of trainings for caregivers statewide.
  - Visit VT-FUTRES [Links](#) for additional materials
- D. Support
- E. Activities to support and recognize resource families: (See Planning a Retention Event below)
  - A special event in May as it is National Foster Care Month.
  - A Holiday Party in December.
  - A Summer Picnic that can include a school supply distribution. ([See working with PINS partners](#))
  - Local Association or Support Group Meetings
  - Recognize the efforts of Foster Families in local Newsletters
  - Days at special locations i.e Jay Peak Water Park
  - Providing day care services for training and support groups
  - Providing activities that include the children as listed above
  - Providing activities that are exclusively for adults i.e. weekend away with respite provided.
  - [Foster Parent Spotlight](#)