



FAMILY-CENTERED, NEIGHBORHOOD BASED SERVICES aka FAMILY 2 FAMILY

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

HI! I'M 8 YEARS OLD, AND THIS IS A PICTURE OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD. ALL OF MY FRIENDS ARE HERE, SO IS MY SCHOOL. MY MOM TAKES CARE OF US. DAD LEFT A WHILE AGO AND NEVER CAME BACK. SOMETIMES THINGS GET CONFUSING. MY MOM GETS UPSET. SHE SEEMS REAL UNHAPPY. OUR GRANDMA SAYS MOM IS DEPRESSED. MY SISTER AND ME AREN'T SURE WHO TO TALK TO WHEN WE RUN OUT OF FOOD OR WHEN OUR CLOTHES NEED WASHING. WE HAVE A SOCIAL WORKER WHO IS REAL NICE, BUT SOMETIMES I JUST WANT A FRIEND. JUST LIKE MR. ROGERS SAYS, WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Family problems are resolved most effectively and lastingly with team effort. While most of us have family and friends we can count on when we are in a jam, families in need of public services are more vulnerable and less likely to have a strong support system. Coming together as a team of parents, neighbors, respected community members, and service providers, we can find solutions to problems vulnerable families cannot find on their own. **Community solutions achieve long term results.**

As part of the agency's **FOSTER PARENT PROGRAM**, you can help support the reunification of children and their families in their own neighborhoods. Help recruit other families to be foster families. Attend the Family Team Meeting and the Family Case Conference.

When appropriate:(1)agree to exchange letters, (2) birthday cards and notes with the birth families; (3) allow the birth mom or dad to call their children once or twice a week; (4) prepare a snack for the child to take on visits; (5) ask the birth mom and dad if they want to accompany you (or meet you) at the child's doctor appointment; (6) meet the birth family for a picnic in the park or to celebrate the child's birthday; (7) attend school meetings, doctor appointments and counseling sessions wit the child's parents, (8)go clothe shopping with the child and child's birth mom.