

## **Keeping siblings together improves adulthood social skills.**

- Lew Bank et al., *Intervening to Improve Outcomes for Siblings in Foster Care: Conceptual, Substantive, and Methodological Dimensions of a Prevention Science Framework*, 39 *Child. & Youth Svcs. Rev.* 8 (2014), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3951129/>

This paper provides an interdisciplinary literature review of various studies on the effects of sibling co-placement on general child welfare outcomes. It concludes that, based on a survey of the field, placement of children with their siblings “provide[s] important opportunities for youth to learn and practice social skills and to develop strategies for negotiation, conflict resolution, and cooperative activity in familiar and unfamiliar settings.” *Id.* at 2. These in turn improve adulthood skills for foster care alumni. The paper therefore recommends a policy approach that supports a robust focus on supporting siblings in foster care.

- Sabrina M. Richardson & Tuppett Yates, *Siblings in Foster Care: A Relational Path to Resilience for Emancipated Foster Youth*, 47 *Child. & Youth Svcs. Rev.* 378 (2014), <https://adlab.ucr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Richardson-Yates-2014.pdf>

Using data from 170 recently emancipated youth from the California foster care system between the ages of 17 and 21, this study investigates the correlation between sibling co-placements during foster care with subsequent adult outcomes. It analyzes these outcomes in relation to the proportion of time which a child had spent placed with versus separated from their siblings. In addition to the educational outcomes, the study addressed the occupational competence, housing competence, relationship competence, and civic engagement of young adults who had recently been emancipated from the foster system. It found that, absent placement with siblings, many children in foster care lack the meaningful relationships that allow them to develop “narrative coherence.” *Id.* at 384-85. This skill allows children to contextualize their experiences and emotions into a larger narrative, fostering emotional resilience. Narrative coherence was much higher in male children who had been placed with siblings. In turn, high narrative coherence was strongly correlated with high occupational, housing, and relationship competence, as well as higher levels of civic engagement.