

What is Family Connections?

Child and Family Services of Grand Erie wants to see children and youth safe and thriving at home with their families. The **Family Connections Program** works with parents and caregivers to help build natural support networks that will enhance the safety and wellbeing of their children.

If children cannot be cared for by their parents or guardians, Children's Aid Societies have a legal responsibility to search for family, friends, and/or community connections for children who are found to be in need of protection. The Society believes that the next best placement for children is with their extended family or with someone who has a meaningful relationship with the child. This may include extended family or a close member of the community.

“Call it a clan. Call it a network.
Call it a tribe. Call it a family.
Whatever you call it, whoever
you are, you need one.”
- Jane Howard

What can you expect?

A CFSGE Family Connections worker will contact you to help identify important people who may be able to help as a wider circle of support. This may include:

- ♦ Extended family members
- ♦ Teachers, Coaches
- ♦ Elders, Clan Mothers
- ♦ Friends, etc.

Once this wider circle has been identified, a Family Connections worker will invite them to participate in Support Network Meetings, where a child-focused action plan can be developed to address the meeting's goal.

The Importance of Stability for Children and Youth

- Extended family and community members can provide support to help strengthen families so that children can remain at home with their parents.
- When children are with family members who are able to help maintain stable relationships, trauma experienced by a child / young person when separated from their parents can be reduced.
- Children and young people who live with a family connection experience fewer moves, creating more stability.

Benefits of Kinship and Family Connections

- A child / young person's sense of cultural identity is maintained and re-enforced.
- Important relationships are maintained so that children and young people can continue to live safely with people they know, love and trust.
- ♦ Lifelong connections with a loving, nurturing family or network of significant relationships are built and strengthened for the child or young person.

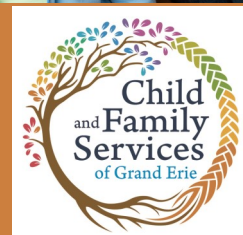
CFSGE Family Connections workers attend to the unique needs of the child or young person within a continuum of options to help achieve life-long stability from the very first contact with a child, young person or family.

CFSGE has made seven specific commitments to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. See the full EDI Statement on our website at: [EDI Statement - Child and Family Services of Grand Erie](#)



**DIVERSE
INCLUSIVE
ACCEPTING
WELCOMING
SAFE SPACE
FOR EVERYONE**

You are a part of our community. We offer a positive and anti-oppressive space where every individual, regardless of age, is valued and respected whatever their culture, faith, ethnicity, race, ancestry, class, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity.



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