

Kinship Kids and Mental Health

What is a Kinship Kid?

A Kinship Kid is a young person under the age of 18 who lives full time with a relative or family friend because they are not able to live with their birth parents.



What is Kinship Care?

Kinship care is also known as 'family and friends care', 'connected care', 'relative care' or kincare and has always been with us.

Grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, cousins and close friends have always come forward to keep children in the family when there is a crisis or breakdown of relationships.

The term kinship care covers a variety of situations:

- Informal or private kinship arrangement between parents and relatives
- Registered private foster care
- Local authority foster care with family and friends (Family & Friends Foster Care)
- Kinship Care with Residence Order, Special Guardianship Order, Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order.

The Kinship Charter

The Kinship Charter provides a framework to guide the way Local Authorities work with Kinship Families.

The model was established when Kinship Carers Liverpool worked collaboratively with Liverpool City Council Children's Services Lead Officers and Family Law Solicitors to look at Kinship Care from a Human Rights based approach.

The model was created to improve the level of understanding, provide practical solutions and support the needs of Kinship Families.



Impact of being a KinKid

- 62% of kinship carers believed that their children had long-term physical and mental health needs
- 41% of kinship carers reported their children displayed risk taking behaviour including self-harming, drug and alcohol misuse
- 36% of children in kinship care had special educational needs – 3x the national average of 12%
- Child-on-carer violence continues to be a significant issue, which 26% of carers reported experiencing over the past year

HOWEVER

- Improvement on the care received from their parents
- 97% said that living in kinship care was a good thing, 73% said that if they had a choice, they would choose to live with them
- Experience close, warm and affectionate relationships with their carers and form secure attachments
- Feel they belong and can stay as long as they need to
- See their carers as someone they can trust, depend on and turn to and they will listen, understand and support them
- Feel safe, secure, loved, cared for and valued

We all have a role to play!



- Checking in
- Talking Matters
- Get your DAILY DOSE

Promote and Foster Resilience

Use the Resilience Framework to support children and young people, but also families as they navigate kincare.

www.resilienceframework.co.uk

<https://www.boingboing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/kinship-carers-resource-final.pdf>