

co-parenthood



Sharing parenthood

when you need a hand
or have a hand to lend



What is **Co-parenthood**?

Co-parenthood is a shared parenting alternative to foster care, designed to support restorations. When children can't live at home, separation can be traumatic and emotional for parents and children, but Co-parenthood takes a new approach to birth parent/foster parent relationships and contact - one that promotes healthy ongoing engagement with both families in the best interest of children.

Co-parenthood helps birth parents get through tough times and work through restoration. Co-parenthood gives kids the chance to get the support and love they need while safely staying in touch with birthparents until birth parents are ready. Co-parenthood gives families in the community an opportunity to lend a hand to a family who's looking for help.

What makes it **unique**?

- + Co-designed with families and foster parents
- + Informed by evidence about effective restorations and behaviour change; includes trauma-informed tools and interactions.
- + Carers are 'in it for the whole family;' they build birth parent capacity and care for children
- + Peer support for co-parents

How does it **work**?



1 Find great co-parents

Not everyone is fit for the job. We find and train co-parents Carers who are non judgemental and committed to supporting whole families.



2 Match up

Everyone has likes and dislike; this is a sensitive link up. We carefully match up two families that make both sides feel at ease.



3 Knowing your child is in safe hands

Birth parents know their children better than anyone else. We make special time to ensure birth parents have the chance to share what's important.



4 Getting to know each other

We take it slow. Get to know each other over phones, then in neutral spaces and then wherever and whenever both families feel comfortable.



5 Parenting together

Co-parents both care about the children in co-parenthood. Birth parents and helping parents make decisions, learn and spend time together.



6 Transitioning to restoration

Responsibility and time spent is slowly transitioned to birth parents, with help from coparents when needed.



7 Family plus

Continue the relationship as both families wish. In some cases you might gain some 'extended family,' a life long friend, or neighbour with helpful advice.



Laying the ground work

Building a coparenting relationship

Restoration

The Co-parenthood model was created by The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI), a non profit organisation that develops, tests and spreads innovations that change lives.

At TACSI, we believe that people are the experts of their own lives. It's important to us that families help us design the solutions, which is why Co-parenthood was developed with families for families.

We believe in helping all families live their very best lives.



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