

Relationship Based Visitation Demonstration Project Service & Research Overview



What is Relationship Based Visitation?

Relationship-Based Visitation (RBV) is a parenting intervention delivered in a visitation context. It was developed by DHS for Oregon's IV-E Waiver Demonstration project. This intervention uses an evidence-based parenting curriculum, The Nurturing Skills Program (NSP). (For additional information see <http://www.nurturingparenting.com>).

The curriculum is delivered by trained parent coaches who will work with the parent before, during and after a parent-child visit. The service is provided by community-based agencies and visits occur in safe, supervised settings.

Eligibility: Eligibility screening is done by a designated RBV Liaison at each participating branch office.

Eligible families include those with:

- At least one child under the age of 13 who has recently entered out of home care;
- No safety issues that would prevent a supervised visit in a community agency
- A need for parenting services.

Referral: Once eligibility is determined, the designated RBV Liaison will randomly assign the family to either the RBV services group or the services-as-usual (control) group. If the family is assigned to the RBV services group, the DHS Liaison will notify the caseworker that a referral needs to be made.



What Services do Participating Families Receive?

Your local RBV provider has contracted with DHS to provide the following services:

- Assess parents using standardized tools designed to help identify parents' needs and to individualize the NSP lesson plan.
- Developing parenting-focused goals and plans for visit activities based on assessments, the family's child welfare case plan, and needs identified by the parents and the caseworker.
- Providing at least 16 and no more than 45 RBV sessions to parents and children as determined by the needs assessment, plan development and goal setting.
The RBV visit is designed to be **in addition** to a family's regular visitation with their child/children.
- Providing post-reunification support including parenting education, until the families' parenting goals are met.
- Engaging foster parents in supporting visitations in ways that strengthen the relationship between biological parents and their children. This may include an initial meeting between the birth parent and foster parents to exchange information and/or the development of procedures for exchanging information at the beginning and/or end of each RBV session.
- Coordinating with caseworkers around parent progress, other visitation, children's issues/needs, and other emergent issues. All caseworkers receive weekly visitation reports and monthly progress reports from the RBV providers.
- Collecting information and data about client progress, model fidelity, etc.

What is the Research Part of RBV?

- In order to evaluate the effectiveness of RBV with the highest level of scientific rigor, the study will use a randomized control group design.
- Random assignment happens on-line after families are determined to be eligible.
A family may **ONLY** be referred to RBV services after they have been randomly assigned by the designated DHS Liaison at your branch.
- PSU is tracking outcomes for parents and children in the RBV and control groups through DHS administrative data, as well as supplemental client, provider and DHS staff interviews.

Who Does What?

DHS and RBV Provider Responsibilities

Branch responsibilities:

- Each branch has identified an RBV Liaison who facilitates screening and referral for the RBV Program. If you don't know who your branch RBV Liaison is, please ask your supervisor or Program Manager. Liaisons facilitate eligibility screening, random assignment, and referral to services.
- Obtaining 2099 forms (release of contact information to PSU) for ALL ELIGIBLE families (**both** RBV and control families).
- Setting up a process for screening and referral.

Caseworkers are generally responsible for:

- Providing information about the family to the RBV Liaison for eligibility screening.
- Providing information about the family for the referral form.
- Making the referral to the RBV provider and/or communicating with the parent and RBV provider.
- Coordinating with the RBV provider as needed.
- Coordinating transportation through an SSA as needed.

RBV Providers are responsible for:

- Doing outreach and engaging families to ensure successful referrals.
- Communicating with the caseworker about the family's progress, through weekly visit reports and monthly progress reports (and by telephone and/or email as needed).
- Attending hearings, family meetings, and other proceedings as requested by parents and/or caseworkers.
- Providing the full array of RBV services.

