

## THOUGHTS ABOUT ICE BREAKERS

“Very unique and I think this should continue because it helps the foster parents.” Francesca, foster parent, 2004

“Seeing the response between mother and child; knowing that there were good feelings between them, and being able to provide mom with the knowledge that the child was safe.” Pat, foster parent, 2004

“I feel like my kids are in a good place because I’ve had the opportunity to interact with the foster parent.”

“It was cool to learn that the foster parent is teaching my kids Spanish.” Michael, birth parent, 2004

“It builds rapport with all parties at the meeting.” Bob, social worker, 2005

“As a worker, I am able to obtain information on how the minor is doing in foster care and how the minor was at home.” Lorraine, social worker, 2005

“Parent and foster parent get to meet and share information in regards to the children's interests, habits, and likes. Both the parent and the foster parent appeared to benefit and feel good about the meeting and outcome.” Eva, social worker, 2004



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# Ice Breakers

Family-to-Family Initiative



FUTURE SOLUTIONS  
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## WHAT IS AN ICE BREAKER?

The term "Ice Breaker" refers to an initial meeting between the birth parents, foster parents, and the social worker. Ice Breaker meetings should occur when a child enters protective custody, ideally within the first 7-14 days of placement. The meeting should last no longer than thirty minutes. The focus of the meeting is a free exchange of information regarding minor(s) in care and needs.



## WHERE DID ICE BREAKERS COME FROM?

The Family-to-Family program adopted by Riverside County in 2003 is based on the nationwide program created by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Ice Breakers "break the ice" and begin the process of building a relationship between the birth parents, foster parents, social workers, and children.

## Questions?

Any further questions can be directed to the:

**Family to Family Coordinator**

**( 951) 358-3410**

