



# The Children's Institute

Amazing Kids. Amazing Place.

## Family Visitation – Beaver County

### Project STAR at The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh

Every child should have the right to grow up in a safe, nurturing and lasting family. From its very inception, this has been the mission of Project STAR at The Children's Institute. Founded as a service to place children with delays and disabilities in family homes for adoption, Project STAR has grown into a broad-based service placing children in need of stable, nurturing environments in the most appropriate environment for each child, through adoption, foster care or strengthening their existing families.

One of Project STAR's key services is Family Visitation. As one of The Children's Institute's Centers of Excellence, Our Family Visitation services strive to maintain a child's relationship with his or her biological family with the ultimate goal being reunification and permanency whenever possible.



### Family Visitation

Family Visitation provides the opportunity for children in foster care to continue their relationship with their birth parents, siblings and extended family in a safe environment. Family connections influence every area of a child's life now and into the future. Maximizing the chances of helping children develop healthy

relationships with family members maximizes the child's chances for success in life as well. The family visitation process is essential to permanency planning by promoting reunification of families and assisting in creating the best possible alternative placement if reunification is not possible.

#### THE RESULTS ARE REAL.

90% of all children served through The Children's Institute Family Visitation Centers are reunited with family members.

### Family Visitation-Beaver County

is physically structured to recreate a home setting as much as possible. Three distinct visitation areas are available with access to a fully equipped kitchen. These areas allow for families to come together in a meal environment, which is an ideal scenario in which to foster visitation and relationship development. In addition, visitation can be arranged in family homes and various community locations.

Through Family Visitation, parents and other family members are taught parenting skills, coping skills and child management skills specific to their family.

Unique to Family Visitation in Beaver is the Parent and Children Together (PACT) program. We arrange supervised visits between birth parents and children who have been removed from the home. Our staff coordinates the time and location of the visit with parents, allowing for more frequent, relaxed visitations. Parenting lessons are included in each visit. This flexibility allows parents to play an active role in the reunification process. Parents and child welfare professionals receive immediate feedback about the visits.

To learn more about Family Visitation, please contact Dr. Patricia Saunders-Madison at 412.244.3055, or [pma@the-institute.org](mailto:pma@the-institute.org).