



Post-Permanency Services



Project STAR at
The Children's Institute



Our Goal: Building Lifelong Relationships

Adoption is not just a one-time event. It's a lifelong relationship. But what happens to families after the adoption process is over — once the court hearing is done and the caseworkers are gone? Often times, the road to a stable, fulfilling relationship is not always smooth. That's why Project STAR offers post-permanency services to help children and their families with programs designed to

make the family stronger — through the adoption process and beyond. Funded through the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), services are available for all adoptive families, permanent legal custodians and fit and willing relatives. Following are the three post-permanency services offered by Project STAR.

Case Assessment and Advocacy

A Project STAR permanency specialist acts as an advocate for the family. In order to understand a family's particular concerns, a permanency specialist will visit the home to gather background information. After the visit, a Family Support Plan is written to clarify the goals and needs the family has identified.

Depending on the family's goals, a permanency specialist may do any or all of the following:

- Attend meetings and hearings with the family.
- Act as an advocate for services for the child and the family.
- Coordinate referrals with therapists and other agencies.
- Share information with therapists, other agencies, the family or child.
- Simply listen.

Case advocacy is authorized in six-month time periods. If the family's need extends beyond this time, Project STAR will apply for reauthorization for another six months.



Respite Care

Caring for a disabled or severely ill child is all-consuming. Time away from round-the-clock-care is often needed for the caregiver's own health and well-being, enabling them to better care for their loved one. Respite care offers these families the temporary relief they need. Families may be reimbursed up to \$200 in respite care per month.

There are many respite care options available, and families may choose their own respite provider. In order to qualify as a provider, potential caregivers must obtain clearances and undergo a home inspection if respite care will be provided in the home. To access respite services through Project STAR, families must call the SWAN Helpline at **800.585.7926** and identify Project STAR as the preferred respite care provider. After receiving a referral from SWAN, a Project STAR staff member will contact the family to schedule respite services. In some instances, respite care may also be available in The Hospital at The Children's Institute in the McGuinn Family Respite Care Suite.

In order to provide the best quality care, families offer respite providers background and medical information about their child and a respite agreement is signed. Ideally, respite care is planned as far in advance as possible.





Support Services

Many families find that their greatest support comes from other families who have adopted children. Through support groups, families can meet and discuss similar issues with other participants. Support groups are designed to give families a regular opportunity to gather and a chance to discover untapped resources that have worked for other families.

Project STAR'S support group meets in both Allegheny County and Beaver County. Notices of upcoming meetings are sent to interested families. Meetings usually include a potluck supper, a speaker and a discussion. Training hours are also available. To be added to the mailing list, please call **724.775.0209**.

Who can receive services?

Post-permanency services are available for any family with a legally adopted child or children under the age of 18 who were adopted privately, through an agency, through foster care or internationally.

Families interested in any of Project STAR'S post-permanency services listed in this brochure should contact the SWAN Helpline at **800.585.7926**.

What is the cost?

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare provides funding for post-permanency. There is no direct cost to the family.

Other Important Numbers

Project STAR
Pittsburgh
412.224.3066

Foster Care
and Adoption Services
412.244.3056

Project STAR
Beaver County
724.775.0209

Post-Permanency Services
724.775.0209



The Children's Institute

Amazing Kids. Amazing Place.

About The Children's Institute

Established in 1902, The Children's Institute is an independent, nonprofit, licensed organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of children, young people and their families and to providing services that meet their special needs. The Children's Institute is made up of three components:

- **The Hospital**

Inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation

- **The Day School**

A state-approved private school for children ages 2 to 21

- **Project STAR**

Family placement, family preservation and family enrichment services

To better support our children and families, Project STAR has locations in Pittsburgh and Beaver County:

Pittsburgh Office

467 S. Trenton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412.244.3066

Beaver County Office

1598 Virginia Avenue
Monaca, PA 15061
724.775.0209

The Children's Institute

1405 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412.420.2400

www.amazingkids.org