

# Real Life Reunification...Jake's Team



From time to time, our caregivers like to share their real-life stories about fostering children in care. It's a challenging and, quite often, an emotional journey. But the dividends in the long run pay off in reunifying children with their birth parents and strengthening the family.

Here's a story we received from a foster parent about the value and importance of partnering and being a support to birth parents.

## ***Jake's Team***

"Thank you for bringing him home! We'll see you in a few hours."

That's what Jake's mother said to me when I dropped him off at his home. We'd been 4-year-old Jake's foster parents for eight months. He came to us a shy and scared little boy. His mom was struggling with addiction. At placement, Jake's mom had been incredibly angry. But now I know it was fear and sadness.

I never thought the day would ever come that we could talk face to face and have a pleasant

conversation. She's worked hard in treatment, even slipped up but I know she loves this little guy as we do.

With baby steps, we've come to know and appreciate each other; first, meeting at court and visits...only exchanging a few words. Over time, we started to share important information, pictures and updates. Now we know we are on the same team...Jake's Team!

And he's the winner!