

# I'm Wondering...



## What is Kinship Care?

### You might be wondering what “Kinship Care” means?

Kinship care means a child lives with family or people they already know, like grandparents, aunties, uncles, older siblings, or close family friends.

These adults are called kinship carers.

Kinship care happens when adults believe it will help a child feel safer and more connected.

### Some things kinship care can involve

Kinship care might mean:

- Living with someone you already know
- Family roles feeling a bit different
- Adults helping each other work out new responsibilities
- Support from workers, just like other types of care

Kinship carers still need support too such as respite, advocacy, transparency and due process and quality practices.

### Here's one way to think about it:

Kinship care is about staying connected to your family and story, while also making sure you are safe and cared for. It tries to keep familiar people, places, and culture in a child's life when possible.

### One thing to remember:

Kinship care is about safety and connection, not about fixing family or choosing sides. You are not in trouble for wondering about how this works.

### How some children might feel?

- Comforting
- Confusing
- Awkward
- Relieving
- Hard when family roles change
- Different at different times
- All of these feelings are allowed.

### For adults supporting this child

- Acknowledge role changes openly.
- Avoid placing adult responsibility on the child.
- Support the child's right to hold mixed feelings.

This is about connection, boundaries, and safety — not loyalty tests.

### If you want to...

- If you want to understand who makes decisions and why, you can ask.
- If family feelings feel mixed up or hard, you can talk about that.
- If you feel grateful and sad at the same time, that makes sense.
- If you don't want to talk right now, that's okay.
- You don't have to choose one feeling.