

VISITATION & PARENTING BEYOND BARS

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Why Support Increased Visitation?

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- Help Prevent unnecessarily separating families as it is devastating to children in foster care
- Support family reunification which is linked to reduced recidivism for parents, greater family stability, and improved emotional response for children.[1]



M.L. and her 3 year old son at WCCW Holiday Event 2014, she gave birth to her sons in jail and she has been successfully parenting from prison. Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Benefits of Prison Visits on Children's Well-Being

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- Provides assurance
- Reduces separation anxiety
- Can reduce the child's incidence of problematic behavior and improve outcomes
- Provides stabilization
- Maintains parent-child attachment [2]



Better Outcomes for Kids

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Sometimes I wonder if it's my fault.

- Maintaining contact helps children:
 - ▣ Allows them to express emotional reactions to separation
 - ▣ Promotes a more realistic understanding
 - ▣ Reduces child anxiety by knowing their parent is safe[3]

VISITATION AT DOC PRISONS IN WA

Contact Visits and Family Friendly Environment

Visitation and Events at WCCW

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- Prison Staff Make Family Friendly Events and Environments-Food, Art, Fun!



Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Visitation and Events at WCCW

* pictures from 2015 Christmas Event

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Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Contact Visits

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T.Q. and her 6 year old son, she is successfully parenting from prison since he was a baby and will release in 2019. Photo Credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Contact Visits

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Room to Play Freely!

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Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Ability for Child to Connect with Caregiver and Parent!

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Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Arts and Crafts w/Parent and Caregiver

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Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Prison Staff Make it Fun!

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Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Meet other caregivers and kids in Same Circumstances!

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Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

Contact Info:

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Seattle University School of Law
Establish *justice*



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