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## C4P News

Supporting Kinship Caregivers

### Kinship Caregiver Facts

While individual experiences make kinship care and foster care different for everyone, research has laid out for us some intriguing pieces of information:

- Compared with children in kinship care, children in foster care are 10x more likely to be abused or neglected by the caregiver and 6x more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Kinship caregivers are more likely than foster caregivers to have a low socioeconomic status and have fewer support services, such as parent training, peer support, and respite care.
- Children in kinship care, compared to children in foster care, have fewer continuing behavioral problems, better social skills, less psychotropic medication use, and less mental health therapy use, when controlling for parental drug and alcohol abuse.
- In Tennessee, over 72,000 children have grandparents providing primary care.
- Studies suggest that 90% of foster parents in the U.S. have a high school diploma while only 67% of kinship caregivers have a diploma
- Children being raised solely by grandparents are significantly less likely to graduate high school, enroll in college, or graduate from college than their peers living in two-biological - parent households.

\*This information was taken from various studies ranging from 2005 to the present, as well as the 2010 U.S. Census

### C4P Trivia

According to the 2010 U.S Census, what percent of children under the age of 18 in Tennessee live in the home of a grandparent or other relative?

- A. 12%
- B. 21%
- C. 17%
- D. 2%

The first person to send the correct answer to [center4parenting@utk.edu](mailto:center4parenting@utk.edu) will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card!

### Featured Curriculum

A Tradition of Caring (Kinship PRIDE): Information, Resources, and Support for Kinship Families

This is a 9-session curriculum designed by the Child Welfare League of America to assess kinship families and provide them with information about general care issues, healthy child development, changes in family dynamics, accessing needed resources, and understanding the child welfare system. See the following website for more information:

<http://www.cwla.org/programs/trieschman/pridetraditionofcaring.htm>

### Featured Resources

#### Relative Caregiver Program (RCP):

This is a program developed by the state of Tennessee to support children who are not living with their parents, with hopes of avoiding placement in state custody. Services offered through this program include: information and referral, caregiver support groups, activity and support groups for children and teens, educational workshops, respite and recreation, family advocacy, outreach, and start-up or emergency financial assistance.  
<http://www.tennhelp.com/RelCareGiver/program>

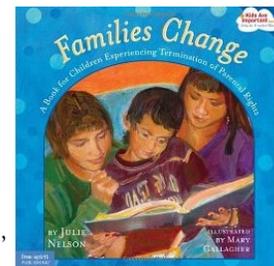
#### Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP):

This is a program was born in 1996 out of the AARP Grandparent Information Center to enhance the services and information available to grandparents serving as primary caregivers and the involved professionals. Services offered include educational seminars and workshops, parenting classes, stress management classes, childcare, social and recreational activities, and individual guidance.  
<http://www.brookdalefoundation.org/rapp/rapp.html>

### Featured Books

#### *Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights* by Julie Nelson

This is a book that can be used with young or later elementary-aged children that shows how all families experience changes and emphasizes that while it's ok to feel sad or upset with these, it is not their fault. This book also provides resources for birth parents, foster parents, social workers, counselors, and teachers.



#### *The Sacred Work of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* by Elaine Williams

This is a book written for grandparents who serve as primary caregivers of their grandchildren; it can also be helpful for any kinship caregiver, teacher, or social worker. This book addresses how to handle some difficult questions, and it also gives example situations of common challenges and offers suggestions that can help to address those challenges.

