

441—172.2(234) Family-centered services. Family-centered services are services designed to prevent the child from entering foster care and to assist the family when the needs of the child, parent, or kinship foster caregiver are directly related to the safety, permanency, or well-being of the child. The outcome of the services may be to maintain the child with a parent or in the home of the kinship foster caregiver, to reunify the child safely with a parent or kinship foster caregiver, or to achieve permanent family connections for the child.

172.2(1) Family-centered services provide interventions and supports based on identified needs of children and families that have come to the department's attention because of:

- a.* Evaluation of a child abuse assessment or child in need of assistance assessment and the family's risk assessment score; or
- b.* The child's adjudication as a child in need of assistance pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.2; or
- c.* The child's placement out of home under the department's care and supervision.

172.2(2) Family-centered services are designed to:

- a.* Identify and build on the family's strengths and enhance the family's protective capacities;
- b.* Address the risk factors that affect the child's safety, permanency, and well-being; and
- c.* Strengthen family connections to community resources and informal support systems in order to promote greater self-reliance.

172.2(3) Family-centered services will utilize evidence-based interventions to the greatest possible extent.

172.2(4) Family-centered services may be offered to the following persons:

- a.* A child eligible for services under the provisions laid out in this rule;
- b.* Any sibling of that child who resides in the same household at the time of service referral or moves into the household during the service delivery period; and
- c.* A parent, stepparent, or kinship foster caregiver of the child.

172.2(5) During the time that a child and the child's family are approved to receive family-centered services on an open case, the department will be responsible for maintaining case management, including contact with the child and family to ensure that:

- a.* The factors that present risks of harm to the safety and well-being of all children in the family are being adequately addressed; and
- b.* Services and supports are in place to achieve the child's permanency goal.

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