

The finding underpinning [Recommendation 2 of the Reunification Practice Guide](#) – ‘Offer evidence-based interventions to help children remain safely at home and reduce re-entry into care’ – is based on a moderator analysis showing a significant positive effect of interventions to support children to remain at home and not return to care (SMD=0.32, 95% CI [0.09 to 0.54],  $p=0.008$ ,  $n=17$ ,  $k=29$ ). The 17 studies underpinning this finding can be found in the table below, which shows study author, intervention name, typology as well as the study findings.

Study	Intervention examined	Typology	Findings
Akin et al. (2017)	Strengthening Families Program: a 14-week structured programme to build parenting, family, and child skills	Parent-focused skills building	There was no statistical difference between the intervention and comparison groups in the likelihood of re-entry to care following reunification.
Berry, McCauley & Lansing (2007)	Intensive Reunification Program: 36 weeks of twice-weekly parent-and-child group sessions, including family activities, education, and peer support	Parent-focused skills building	More than half of intervention families achieved stable reunification, compared with four families in the comparison group.
Burnson et al. (2025)	Family Visit Coaching: pre-visit planning, in-visit coaching, and post-visit debriefing to help parents respond to children’s needs	Parent mentoring/coaching	There was no significant difference between groups in re-reports or foster care re-entry. However, children in the comparison group had a higher substantiation rate than children whose parents received the intervention.



Study	Intervention examined	Typology	Findings
Chambers et al. (2019)	Iowa Parent Partner Approach: parents with successful reunification experience provide guidance, motivation, hope, and practical advice	Parent mentoring/coaching	Families using the Iowa Parent Partner programme had higher rates of reunification and lower rates of subsequent child removals than comparison families.
Chuang et al. (2012)	Hillsborough County Family Dependency Treatment Court: a multidisciplinary, less-adversarial court model for parents with substance-use needs	Therapeutic problem-solving court	Re-entry to care within 12 months of achieving permanency was less likely in the intervention group than in the comparison group
DeGarmo et al. (2013)	Pathways Home: 24 weekly individual parent-management-training sessions, including healthy self-care	Parent-focused skills building	Re-entry to foster care was nearly twice as likely in the comparison group as in the intervention group. The intervention had no significant effect on problem behaviours.
Fraser, Walton & Lewis (1996)	Family Reunification Services a 90-day service combining a trusting caseworker relationship, tailored parenting-skills training, practical help, and referrals	Multi-agency team around the family	Children were more likely to remain with their parents when parents had received reunification services than when they had received usual services.
Harwin et al. (2011)	Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC): a specialist problem-solving court with a multidisciplinary team for parents involved in care proceedings and experiencing substance misuse	Therapeutic problem-solving court	Mothers in the intervention group were more likely to stop substance misuse and sustain this over five years. Among mothers reunified at the end of proceedings, more intervention-group mothers experienced no disruption to family stability by three-year follow-up.
Kemp et al. (2024)	Trauma-focused Evaluation Program: family-court mental-health assessment and	Child-focused	Children in the intervention group were more likely to have their original case closed: described as achieving



Study	Intervention examined	Typology	Findings
	recommendations covering treatment, health, education, relationships, functioning, and case management		permanency by 24 months. There were no statistically significant differences in guardianship changes, termination of parental rights, new child-welfare petitions, or new youth-justice-system contact.
Landsman et al. (2001)	Reasonable Efforts to Permanency through Adoption and Reunification Endeavors (RE-PARE): support for children in residential treatment and their families, centred on family relationships and parenting skills	Parent-focused skills building	REPARE was more successful than usual services in achieving stable outcomes for children 12 months after the programme.
Leon, Saucedo & Jachymiak (2016)	Recruitment and Kin Connections Project: intensive family searching by Kin Connection Specialists, assessment of relatives' support capacity, and case-planning support	Family finding	There were no differences in reunification rates, placement stability, externalising behaviour, or internalising symptoms. The intervention was associated with better concurrent planning than the comparison group.
Lewandowski et al. (1997)	Family-Centered Out-of-Home Care: one social worker assigned across the family, supported by a Family Support Team and ongoing assessment	Multi-agency team around the family	Children whose parents received the intervention were more likely to return to out-of-home care after reunification than those in the comparison group.
Miller (2008)	Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care Preschool: foster-parent training and 24-hour clinical support to promote children's behaviour, emotional regulation, and development	Child-focused	Among children with suspected or confirmed prenatal drug exposure, intervention-group children were significantly more likely than comparison-group children to be successfully reunified with a parent.



Study	Intervention examined	Typology	Findings
Pine et al. (2009)	Family Reunification Program: intensive, tailored in-home support after a first removal, including parent–child visits, relationship activities, and therapy	Multi-agency team around the family	Intervention families had slightly greater stability 24 months after intake than comparison families, but this difference was not statistically significant.
Ryan et al. (2016)	Professional Recovery Coach Program: recovery coaches help parents engage with substance-use treatment, navigate child-welfare and court systems, and plan for permanency	Parent mentoring/coaching	Reunification rates during the study period were low overall. Nonetheless, recovery coaches significantly increased stable reunification: intervention-group parents were twice as likely to achieve it as comparison-group parents.
Trescher (2020)	Parents for Parents: peer parent mentoring to help parents navigate the child-welfare system, engage with services, and receive encouragement from reunified parents	Parent mentoring/coaching	Parents receiving the intervention were less likely to have their parental rights terminated than comparison-group parents.
Trout et al. (2012)	On The Way Home: a 12-month transition programme with school-engagement support, parent training, and a homework-focused home intervention	Parent-focused skills building	At 12 months, intervention-group children were more likely to remain at home. They were also more likely to remain in school and to graduate than comparison-group children.