

# Family Strengthening & Alternative Care

A GLOBAL MONTHLY NEWS WRAP-UP & RESOURCES

This monthly wrap-up is intended to serve as a compendium of the latest developments in the area of family strengthening and alternative care. We hope you will find it useful and be able to use it in your day-to-day work on research, writing, and practice on child and youth care.

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## GENERAL ALTERNATIVE CARE NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL

- [Minnesota: Making College Accessible to Youth in Foster Care](#)  
The article highlights the efforts to make college education more accessible to youth in foster care. It discusses a program called Fostering Access to College Education (FACE) that provides resources, support, and scholarships to help foster youth navigate the college application process and succeed academically.
- [The University of Birmingham has been recognised for support for the care experienced students](#)  
The University has been awarded the National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) Quality Mark in recognition of the work to support care experienced and care leaver students. It is dedicated to creating a supportive environment that recognizes and addresses the unique challenges faced by care leavers.
- [All children in Foster Care in California can now attend any state college for free](#)  
Through the new Fostering Futures program, the California state will allocate \$25 million to cover tuition for foster youth attending a California State University, University of California, or a community college, and funding also covers the cost of housing, books, and food.

### ASIA

- [The crucial role of Child Welfare Boards in safeguarding and supporting children's rights in Bangladesh](#)  
The opinion piece emphasizes the significance of gearing up the activities of the Child Welfare Boards and outlines the reasons why they are essential in safeguarding and promoting the rights of children in the country.
- [Moving out of residential care: The lives of children and youth in Singapore](#)  
The news article reports that nearly 600 children and youth in Singapore live in residential care. It highlights the challenges faces by them when they start living independently and what more can be done to ease their transition.

### INDIA

- [NCPCR to identify the infrastructure gaps in Child Care Homes](#)  
The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been instructed to identify infrastructure gaps in child care homes across India. The directive comes from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, emphasizing the need to ensure adequate facilities and resources for children residing in these homes. The NCPCR will conduct inspections and assessments to identify areas requiring improvement and formulate recommendations for enhancing infrastructure and overall conditions in child care homes. This initiative aims to prioritize the well-being and proper care of children in institutional settings.
- [Make the older children in care homes legally free for adoption: Union Minister of Women and Child Development](#)  
Indian Union Minister Ms. Smriti Irani instructed Child Welfare Committees to review and expedite the adoption process for older children. Ms. Irani emphasized the need to prioritize these cases to ensure that older children find loving homes. The move aims to address the challenges faced by older children in finding adoptive families and to provide them with better opportunities for a stable and nurturing environment.

- [Manipur High Court directs inspection committees constituted by the state Government for inspection of Child Care Institutes](#)  
The Manipur High Court has directed the state government to constitute inspection committees responsible for inspecting child care institutions in the region. The committees are mandated to ensure the proper functioning and adherence to guidelines for the welfare and protection of children in these care facilities. The court's order aims to enhance the accountability and oversight of child care institutions in Manipur



## NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

### PUBLICATIONS

- [India Alternative Care Network \(IACN\) Quarterly Newsletter](#)  
The 12<sup>th</sup> Issue of IACN newsletter covers a range of family based care interventions focused on facilitating the participation of children and strengthening gatekeeping mechanisms in the rural and urban contexts. The Issue also brings out the role of Masters Trainers in transforming family based alternative care in India.
- [‘Doing family’ in adversity: Findings from a qualitative study exploring family practices in alternative care settings in Thailand](#)  
The new article published in the Journal, Children and Society discusses family adversity and alternative care in Thailand. It highlights the challenges faced by families, such as poverty and substance abuse, which may lead to children being placed in alternative care settings. The author emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of family adversity and supports families in order to prevent child separation.
- [An exploration of the self-care practices of foster carers in Australia](#)  
This new article published in the Journal “Adoption & Fostering”, (Volume 42, issue 2) highlights the importance of self-care for foster carers in Australia and globally. Explaining why and how foster carers practise self-care, what prevents self-care from occurring and how to improve foster carers’ self-care practices.
- [A call to action: The need for routine mental health support for care-experienced children and young people](#)  
This new article published in the Journal “Adoption & Fostering”, (Volume 47, issue 2) discusses the mental health needs of care-experienced children and young people, who are a particularly vulnerable group. The article emphasizes the importance of routine mental health support, early screening, and evidence-based interventions to address the mental health challenges faced by care-experienced children.

### STUDY

- [Strengthening families: How family strengthening can help prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families](#)  
The study highlights the importance of investing in family strengthening in countries across Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It has a particular focus on support for families so that any unnecessary separation of children from their families and placement in alternative care can be prevented.
- [Effect of applying best practices for physical activities and screen time to Family Child Care Home](#)  
The study highlights that caregiver practices in Family Childcare Homes (FCCHs) can significantly impact children's physical activity levels. Implementing best practices related to physical activity and screen time in FCCHs led to increased physical activity among children. These findings have implications for public health practice, suggesting the need for policy modifications and programs to support early childcare providers in promoting physical activity.



## YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA

- [What foster care agencies can do for us after we age out](#)  
The youth highlights the challenges faced by these young adults after aging out from foster care agencies. The article also suggests various ways in which foster care agencies can assist these young adults successfully transition into independent adulthood.
- [Unfinished business: The ongoing issues of the foster care system](#)  
The article highlights the long-standing problems such as high caseloads for social workers, insufficient support for aging-out youth, and a lack of stability for foster children. The youth emphasizes the urgent need for reforms to improve the system, including better training and resources for social workers, extended support for youth transitioning out of foster care, and increased efforts to provide stable and nurturing environments for children in need.



## OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS (JOBS, CONFERENCE ALERTS, CALL FOR ABSTRACTS)

- [Webinar on positive parenting on Aug,1- 3, 2023](#)
- [Webinar on Parental risk factors and the likelihood of children entering care on 20th September 2023](#)
- [ISPCAN International Congress on Advancements in Data and Solutions for Tackling Child Abuse on September 24-27, 2023](#)

Write to us at [icbjournal@udayancare.org](mailto:icbjournal@udayancare.org) for suggestions, feedback or content to be included.