Placing siblings together increases the chances of reunification with parents.

- Vicky Albert & William King, *Survival Analyses of the Dynamics of Sibling Experiences in Foster Care*, 89 Families in Society 533 (2008), https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1606/1044-3894.3819

  This study analyzes reunification rates for sibling groups in foster care and finds that siblings placed completely or partially together reunify at a faster rate than those placed apart. The authors note that, "for the most part and over the long run, intact placement for siblings aids in speeding up the reunification process" and "those placed completely together are less likely to remain in care over the long run than those placed completely apart." *Id.* at 8. The authors thus advocate for practitioners in the child welfare system to base their treatment plans on—in addition to what is best for each individual child—what is best for the sibling unit. The study ultimately concludes that the foster care system would be improved by strengthening efforts to place siblings together, including by providing additional training and monetary incentives to foster parents.

- Jeffrey D. Waid, *Investigating the Impact of Sibling Foster Care on Placement Stability* (2015) (Dissertation, Portland State University), https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3488&context=open_access_etds

  This dissertation used statistical analysis to investigate how family dynamics and home settings impacted the likelihood of foster care placement changes for a sample study of children. Through this analysis, it provides evidence about how sibling co-placement reduces the likelihood of foster care placement changes and increases the likelihood of reunification. For example, it describes a study that tracked permanency outcomes of children who entered foster care and found that siblings places together had better "reunification, guardianship, and adoption outcomes than siblings who were placed in only partially intact groups, children who were completed separated from their siblings, or children who had no siblings in care." *Id.* at 14. The analysis provides support for policies that prioritize co-placing siblings whenever possible and safe to do so, advocating for practitioners to understand that "sibling relationships are a valuable source of support to a child who has been removed from their family" and "provide the opportunity for continued learning and growth in the substitute care placement." *Id.* at 100.

- Sigrid James, et al., *Maintaining Sibling Relationships for Children in Foster and Adoptive Placements*, 30 Child. & Youth Svcs. Rev. 90 (2008), https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19122749/

  This study examines data from caregivers of 14 foster and adopted children in efforts to better understand the implications of maintaining sibling relationships for child welfare policy and practices. Regarding the specific data reviewed, the study found that, in the majority of joint-placement cases, siblings had a positive influence over one another. For example, younger siblings looked up to older siblings as role models. Additionally, maintaining sibling relationships was a key factor in maintaining family cohesiveness when working towards reunification. The authors note that their findings, although based on a limited data set, support

existing research that joint sibling placement generally is viewed favorably by child welfare professionals and youth themselves. They also discuss how joint sibling placement has been linked to several positive child welfare outcomes, including greater placement stability as well as greater likelihood of reunification and adoption.