



## What Can I Expect?

Like you, your children may be upset or confused. Although they need to see you, your children may be nervous. Your caseworker can help your family discuss these feelings. Visitation time will be scheduled with you in order to optimize time with your children.

Visitation time is primarily arranged for parents and children. This is your special time together. However, we know the interaction between grandparents and other special people to the child who may want to visit may be necessary. Maintaining connections is important and encouraged. You must contact the Visitation Unit to plan visits.

## If Challenges Arise

Although family visits are usually a positive experience, sometimes it may be challenging. It is not unusual for parents and children to feel sad or angry. Such feelings are normal and can be shared with your caseworker. Do not hesitate to ask your caseworker anything you do not understand about visitation. Your children may believe you are angry at them for what has happened in your family. Openly exploring challenges may be painful for everyone. Consistent visitation will help reassure your children that you love them and are working toward their return.

## Contact Information

### Family Interaction Center

Angela Sellers, Supervisor  
Lacy Burnside, Scheduler/Receptionist  
(330) 379-2080

### Family Enrichment Area

Sam Dunn, Supervisor  
Dominique Cherry, Scheduler/Receptionist  
(330) 379-2007

### Community Visitation

Charnita Collins, Supervisor  
Unique Clayton, Scheduler/Receptionist  
(330) 379-2052

Your Caseworker

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Phone #

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Email

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Visitation Appointment

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### Family Interaction Center

966 Clark Street | Akron, Ohio 44306  
(330) 379-2080

### Family Enrichment Area | Community Visitation

264 S. Arlington Street, Akron, Ohio 44306  
(330) 379-2025 | [summitkids.org](http://summitkids.org)



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# Family Interaction



*Working toward  
reunification  
with family*

[summitkids.org](http://summitkids.org)



# Important information

*families need to know.*

## Why is Family Visitation Important?

Separation is never easy for families. Interacting as a family is important in reassuring both you and your child that you are still a family and still love and need each other. Maintaining connections between you and your children helps to reassure your love for each other and promotes bonding and attachment.

Summit County Children Services offers two areas for families to visit with their children: the **Family Interaction Center** and the **Family Enrichment Area**. In addition, supervised visits can be held in the family's home or at various locations throughout the community.

## Family Interaction Center

The Family Interaction Center is located on the SCCS campus. Family interaction is time to help your caseworker learn more about your family; observe how you and your child attach and bond with each other; develop a future interaction plan; and teach and assess your family's progress. There are a wide variety of toys, books, crafts and an outdoor playground and picnic area for you to use. Your caseworker or approved agency representative will be assigned and will be present during your visit with your child. Your caseworker will offer suggestions, direction or activities to help make your interaction time more positive.

## Ideas for Positive Family Interaction

- Greet your children affectionately.
- Read a book to your children or play a favorite game.
- Draw, color or share a craft your child enjoys.
- Share family pictures or a healthy, nutritious snack.
- Discuss daily activities, do homework or school projects.
- Keep and encourage family traditions.

## Family Enrichment Area

A new 'Family Enrichment' area has been created from existing space and designed to be a transitional environment for families who are almost ready to begin community or home visitation. There are a wide variety of toys, books, puzzles and an outdoor playground available for you to use. This area offers a less restrictive setting so you can bond with your children. SCCS staff are available in this area to help monitor visits and lend assistance as needed to help create an enhanced experience for all.

## Community / In-Home Interactions

Supervised visits can be held at various community locations such as parks, libraries and at other family-friendly locations when it is determined a safety risk is not present. Supervised visits can also be held in the family home when approved by the assigned caseworker.

## What about Special Occasions?

Special occasion visits may include birthdays or holidays. You must contact your caseworker in advance about a special occasion visit. All special occasion visits must be approved by your caseworker.

## A Visitation Checklist

- **Arrive on time.** If you must cancel your visit, call at least 24 hours in advance and discuss the cancellation. Visits could be cancelled if parents are more than 15 minutes late. Please sign in upon arrival.
- **Be prepared.** Plan activities before your visit. There are plenty of toys and crafts available to families in the Family Interaction Center.
- Visitors cannot use drugs or alcohol before or during a family interaction. Smoking is not permitted.
- Physical discipline is not permitted.
- Let your child know you love them.
- Clean-up will occur within the allotted family interaction time.
- For the Family Enrichment Area, there is a new outdoor playground and seating area for families to use. Toys and other items can be taken and used outdoors.

