

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

April 2022

National Child Abuse Awareness Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through this collaboration, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/>



TANF COVID School Allowance

Did you know...

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund was authorized through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. DFPS will be using some of these funds for a school/clothing allowance, benefitting children in kinship caregiver homes who are between the ages of 3 and 17.

CPS will provide financial assistance which can be used for clothing, school and educational items, to Kinship Caregivers who have children placed with them during the spring and fall semesters. This funding is time limited and is being paid from a one-time grant.

For more information about this effort, please talk with your kinship caseworker.



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Child Protective Services





ECI Resources

Early Childhood Intervention

As families continue to use the Internet, ECI continues to make resources and information available online through its website: hhs.texas.gov/eci. There are a variety of materials available, videos, resources and much more. Here are a few highlighted areas:

ECI Videos: HHSC/ECI created videos to help educate and inform families about ECI. The videos are available on YouTube. Accessibility features include closed captioning. Here is a summary of each video:

"About Texas ECI": Brief overview of our services and explains how ECI partners with families to support their child's development.

"Texas ECI: Family to Family": Offers a parent's perspective for families who have been or may be referred and who would like to learn more about ECI services.

"Parent to Parent: Knowing Your Rights": Encourages families in ECI to understand and exercise their rights. **[Padre a Padre: Conocer sus Derechos](#)**

Normalcy Matters:

Improving Life for Children & Youth in Foster Care

What is normalcy?

In short, normalcy is about giving kids the chance to be kids! It means helping children and youth live as full of a life as possible, with experiences typical for their age and development—everything from having the opportunity to participate in sleepovers, summer camp and extracurricular activities, to having access to a cell phone, taking driver's education or receiving an allowance.

All of these sound like typical childhood experiences, right? Unfortunately, for young people in foster care, it's not that simple.

By making normalcy a true priority, encouraging open communication and collaboration, and ensuring children's voices are heard, everyone involved in the child welfare system can help ensure a better experience for children in foster care – setting them up for success, helping them live fuller lives and giving them a better chance at a bright future.

Get all the details and check out the video at <https://TexasCASA.org/normalcyguide>.

Resources

- **[Superior/STAR Health](https://www.fostercaretx.com/for-members/find-a-provider.html)**
- **[Parenting Tips](https://www.getparentingtips.com)**
- **[Housing/Utility Assistance Programs](http://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html)**
- **[Your Texas Benefits](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home)**
- **[2-1-1 Texas](http://www.211texas.org/)**
- **[Texas WIC](https://texaswic.org/)**
- **[Kinship Manual](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf)**
- **[Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers)**
- **[Kinship Care](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Kinship_Care/default.asp)**

Kinship Support Groups are an important part of The Kinship Program. If you want more information about support groups in your area, please ask your Kinship Development Worker. If you want to be involved in improving the Kinship Program, consider joining the Kinship Collaboration Group. For more information on kinship support groups or becoming an advocate, please contact **Stephen Martinez at 512-960-9254**.

"Accept what is, let go of what was and have faith in what will be" –Unknown