

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

April 2024

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

All families need support. Explore the 2024 Prevention Resource Guide to learn more about the new ways that communities around the state are doing prevention work to help

children and families thrive.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/resource-guide/>



Water Safety Tips

Never let kids play unattended around any backyard pond or pool, including a kiddie pool. Watching children around water is a big responsibility, and older children should never be in charge of watching younger children.

A responsible adult should actively supervise children anytime they are playing in or around swimming pools. It's easy to get distracted, but the designated "water watcher" should always stay focused on the child. So, no reading a book or looking at your phone when kids are in water if you are the water watcher. Also, any adult who is watching children around water should also be able to swim and/or rescue them if anything were to go wrong.

Finally, when playtime is over, make sure to empty kiddie pools and water toys such as sensory tables, then store them where they can't fill with rainwater.

<https://www.getparentingtips.com/toddlers/safety/water-safety-for-kids/default.asp>



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Child Protective Services



Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families April 2024

Interested in becoming a Kinship Foster Home?

Basic Requirements

- be at least 21 years of age, financially stable, and a responsible mature adult,
- complete an application (staff will assist you, if you prefer),
- share information regarding your background and lifestyle,
- provide relative and non-relative references,
- show proof of marriage and/or divorce (if applicable),
- agree to a home study which includes visits with all household members, allow staff to complete a criminal history background check and an abuse/neglect check on all adults in the household, and
- attend free training to learn about issues of children who have been abused and neglected.

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Get_Started/requirements.asp#responsibilities

Normalcy

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. <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/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf)
- [Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers)
- [Kinship Care](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/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 Caseworker. 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