

KINSHIP QUARTERLY

JULY 2021

Summer has arrived and while the sun is shining bright it's a golden time to highlight July as

UV Safety Awareness Month!

We all love to take in those warm summer rays, but everyone must remember to protect their skin and eyes from the damaging effects of the sun.

https://www.va.gov/qualityofcare/education/uv_safety_awareness_month.asp



FGCs are family-oriented and family-focused meetings where many family members come together to decide the plan for the child, going forward. We want as many people as possible who love and care about you, the child in your home, and the parents, at the meeting. Plus, any other supports you may have like church leaders, friends, godparents – anyone who wants to help in any way, be it large or small. If you want more information about Family Group Conferences, ask your caseworker, kinship worker, CASA, the child's attorney, or call the local office and ask to speak to a Family

Did You Know...

...every child in foster care has a permanency planning meeting? These are meetings to discuss the child's long-term legal goal (permanency goal). Most of these meetings are permanency conferences (PCs), but some of them are Family Group Conferences (FGCs).



**Texas Department of Family and
Protective Services**

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families July 2021

Group Decision Making specialist or Family
Group Conference facilitator.

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_protection/Family_Support/fgdm.asp



ECI Summer Ideas 2021

Infants and toddlers learn about the world around them by using all of their senses. Summer is a great time for you to engage your child in activities that are suited for outdoor play. Here are a few fun ideas you can try that will support your child's development.

- Use salad tongs to pick up ping pong balls and place into a reusable container. A great way to make this more fun is to decorate the container as an alligator or hippo and "feed the animals."
- Draw a rainbow and have your child place matching colored Fruit-Loops on the corresponding rainbow line. You can also use colored stickers, or washable dot markers. Summer is a good time to use colored (washable) chalk on your sidewalk. Draw squares close to each other and have your toddler jump from square to square.

- Toss inflated balloons to your child while they use a pool noodle to try and hit it.
- Allow your child to copy simple figures in sand, shaving cream or pudding. Make sure they don't eat the sand or shaving cream! Practice scooping sand into a large bowl using a spoon.
- Blow bubbles and let your child try to pop them before they hit the ground. Encourage them to use both hands and for older children let them try to blow the bubbles themselves.
- Provide opportunities to climb, swing, and jump using age appropriate playground structures.

As with all activities, make sure your child is adequately supervised to ensure safety at all times.

Health and Human Services Early Childhood Intervention is a statewide program that provides services to children birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

For more information, visit [hhs.texas.gov/eci](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/eci)

Resources

- [Parenting Tips](https://www.getparentingtips.com) <https://www.getparentingtips.com>
- [Housing/Utility Assistance Programs](http://www.needhelp-payingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html) www.needhelp-payingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html
- [Your Texas Benefits](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home) www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home
- [2-1-1 Texas](http://www.211texas.org/) www.211texas.org/
- [PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION \(PEI\) PROGRAM LOCATOR](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp) www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp
- [Kinship Manual](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf) www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf
- [Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page](https://m.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers) m.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers
- [Kinship Care](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/default.asp) www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/default.asp

Kinship support groups are an integral 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 more involved in support groups, please consider becoming a Kinship Advocate on the Kinship Collaboration Group.

For more information on kinship support groups or becoming an advocate, please contact **Stephen Martinez at (512) 960-9254.**

“Some of the best memories are made in flip flops.”

– **Kellie Elmore**