



KINSHIP QUARTERLY

APRIL 2021

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

All families need support. Explore the 2021/2022 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.

Backyard 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.

getparentingtips.com/toddlers/safety/water-safety-for-kids/default.asp



Texas Department of Family and
Protective Services

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families April 2021



Licensing and Kinship 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.

Additional Licensing Requirements

- Have adequate sleeping space.
- Allow no more than 6 children in the home including your own children
- Agree to a nonphysical discipline policy.
- Permit fire, health and safety inspections of the home.
- Vaccinate all pets.
- Obtain and maintain CPR/First Aid Certification.
- Obtain TB testing for all people in the home

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

Education

Has the school talked to you about holding your child back a year?

Each school district has its own retention policy. Regardless of that policy, there are several things a caregiver/caseworker needs to do.

1. Identify struggling students within the first few weeks of school.
2. Create an individualized intervention plan to meet that student's learning needs.
3. Meet with the school within a month of initiating that plan. Be straightforward with them, provide them with strategies to implement at school. Adapt and change the plan if you are not seeing growth after a few months.
4. Continuously request updates from the school on the student's progress.
5. Document everything, including meetings, phone calls, strategies used, results, etc.
6. If retention is recommended, contact your regional education specialist to discuss the case. Be sure to monitor and comply with dates concerning retention as well.
7. Retaining a child in Kinder is never recommended, due to Kinder not being a mandatory grade for attendance.

Resources

- **Parenting Tips**
getparentingtips.com
- **Housing/Utility Assistance Programs**
needhelppayingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html
- **Your Texas Benefits**
yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home
- **2-1-1 Texas**
211texas.org/
- **Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Program Locator**
dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp
- **Kinship Manual**
dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf
- **Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page**
facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers
- **Kinship Care**
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.**

"Spring will come and so will happiness. Hold on. Life will get warmer."

Anita Krizzan