

Department of Family & Community Services

Office of Children's Services



Role and Responsibilities of Foster Parents in Supporting Healthy Relationships

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Essential Elements for Youth Connections and Relationships.

- Normalcy – Provide opportunity for the child to participate in their cultural, school, social and family activities.
- Bond – It is essential for child's emotional well being to maintain relationships with parents, family members, friends, teachers, etc.
- Identity -Ask and seek to learn about the child's identity/culture, preferred name and/or pronouns through the child and experts in their lives (parents, teachers, caseworker, therapist). Provide opportunities and support the child's growth and development.
- Explore within your family how you will support different cultural traditions/activities, food preferences, sexual orientation, religion, beliefs, etc. Who are your supports when presented with situations that are outside your expertise or comfort zone?
- Resources to learn about differences: Asking the child, the child's caseworker or family, leaders of community organizations, tribal workers, internet research, Alaska Center for Resource Families.
- Create House Rules – Create house rules and review with children often so they understand the boundaries and expectations. These should include curfew, dating expectations, cell phones, internet usage, checking in and asking permission to participate in activities for older kids.

OCS Foster Care Licensing Regulations

7 AAC 67.230. Program and management in foster home. (a) A foster home will promote the physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional development of a child in care including helping a child develop age-appropriate patterns of behavior that foster constructive relationships and increase their coping skills;

7 AAC 67.200. Supervision of children. (a) A foster parent must provide children in their care with responsible adult supervision, physical safety, emotional support and personal attention appropriate to the child's age and developmental needs.

(c) Foster parents will utilize the prudent parent standard for determining whether to allow a child in care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, or social activities.

OCS Foster Care Licensing Regulations

What is the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard?

Foster parents will support normalcy for children in foster care. The term “reasonable and prudent parent standard” means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the State to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.

- Extracurricular activities (sports, clubs);
- Enrichment activities (attending community events);
- Cultural activities (participation in Native dance group);
- Social activities (sleepover, dances).

Age or developmentally appropriate means: activities or items that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group.

OCS Foster Care Licensing Regulations

7 AAC 67.240. Behavior guidance.

A foster parent shall provide for positive reinforcement, redirection, the setting of realistic expectations, and clear and consistent limits.

(3, E). A child in care may not be: Subjected to verbal abuse and derogatory remarks about the child or the child's family characteristics, physical traits, culture, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, or traditions of the child.

Role and Responsibilities of Foster Parents in Supporting Healthy Relationships:

Discussion with OCS Regional Independent Living Specialists,
Kayla Anderson and Amy Magnuson.

Available Supports to Resource Families

- Assigned Protective Services Specialist
- Foster child's parent(s)
- Guardian Ad' Litem/CASA
- Independent Living Specialist
- OCS Licensing
- OCS Nurse Consultant
- Placement Search and Support Unit – call OCS Special Needs Hotline
- Alaska Center for Resource Families
- Foster child's pediatrician
- Foster child's therapist
- Resource Family Handbook
- Child's mentor



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QUESTIONS ?