

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

July 2022

National Park and Recreation Month

Consider exploring the parks near your home. Parks connect us with our neighbors, and are the places where so many childhood memories are made. Our local parks may be where we first explore nature, try a favorite hobby or fun activity, or meet a new friend. They are places to gather with our loved ones, spaces to celebrate life's special moments, peaceful spots for healing, locations where we learn about important community services, and so much more.

<https://www.nrpa.org/events/july/>



Circles of Support

Are you the caregiver for a youth 14 or older?

You or the youth can request a Circle of Support! This is a type of meeting that helps youth know who they can count on for guidance and support and who can help after they leave CPS' care. Circle of Support participants can be a youth's siblings, birth family members, foster or kinship caregivers, teachers, other relatives, church members, friends, mentor and more. You'll develop plans that include the youth's strengths, hopes and dreams, goals and needs in the areas of education, employment, health/mental health, housing, and all PAL life skills training components.

Get in touch with the youth's caseworker or your kinship development worker – they can make a referral for a Circle of Support. If you know your Family Group Decision Making staff, you or the youth can also directly make the request!

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Transitional_Living/circles_of_support.asp



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Child Protective Services





**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

ECI Resources

Early Childhood Intervention

As a parent or kinship caregiver, you are one of the most important people in your child's life. You might have noticed your child is doing things differently or learning more slowly than other children. If you have any concerns about your child's development, the ECI Developmental Checklist discusses guidelines for what you can look for to see if your child is on target:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/disability/eci/eci-hows-your-baby-english-flyer.pdf>

Our Early Intervention programs help children with delays or disabilities during their first three years, while their brains are growing the fastest. While all infants and toddlers develop at their own pace, some might need extra help, and early intervention helps prepare your child before they start school. Getting help these first three years is best because so much of early learning depends on building upon previously learned skills.

What should I do next?

If you're concerned about your child's development, contact your child's doctor or the ECI program near you, by visiting <https://citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us/> ECI will help you get the services you need for your child.

Education

Education Specialists

CPS regional education specialists help students in CPS' care and are a resource to CPS staff and Kinship Caregivers.

Here is a list of education specialists in your region. If you don't know your region, you can [look it up](#) by county.

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/State_Care/education_specialists.asp

August 09, 2022 – Education Specialists will hold a webinar “Back to School 101” at 10am – 11:30am.

October 06, 2022 – Education Specialists will hold a webinar “Surrogate Parent” at 10am – 11:30am.

A webinar link will be sent out with invites soon, please ask your Kinship Development Worker about this webinar.

Resources

- **Superior/STAR Health**
<https://www.fostercaretexas.com/for-members/find-a-provider.html>
- **Parenting Tips**
<https://www.getparentingtips.com>
- **Housing/Utility Assistance Programs**
www.needhelp-payingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html
- **Your Texas Benefits**
www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home
- **2-1-1 Texas**
www.211texas.org/
- **Texas WIC**
<https://texaswic.org/>
- **Kinship Manual**
www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf
- **Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page**
m.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers
- **Kinship Care**
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 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.

“The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams” –Oprah Winfrey