



CAREGIVER EXPECTATIONS

Normalcy of Youth

All children in care and custody deserve the same opportunities as those who aren't. The ORC (Sections 5103.162 and 2151.315) protects substitute caregivers who use a "Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard" when determining whether to allow a child in their care to participate in age appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

- Treat the youth as if he or she were your own. He or she should be included in family outings, activities, meals and vacations
- Encourage the youth to take opportunities that develop interests and skills through participating in school and community activities, such as music, art, sports, special interest clubs, dances and volunteering .
- Include the youth in decision making when considering any activities by asking for his or her thoughts and opinions.
- Respect the youth's right to identify or be in questioning of their gender expression or sexual orientation, and to be provided LGBTQ resources and support
- Respect the youth's religious and spiritual beliefs. Allow age appropriate youth to attend church activities.
- If the youth shows interest in employment, assist them in the application process and support their decision to work part-time.
- Allow youth to talk with friends on the telephone, have friends over after school or on the weekend, or even have a sleep-over with the supervision of a responsible adult.
- Allow the youth to manage their own personal finances when appropriate, including opening and maintaining a bank account.
- Understand that there is a County policy that will allow a youth in care to obtain their driver's license if certain guidelines and protocol are met.
- To remove extracurricular and social activities as an appropriate consequence only as a reasonable and prudent parent would.

Childhood only happens once