



Policy: Normalcy for Children

ChildNet Number: CN 004.023

Original Approved Date: September 20, 2007

Policy Revised Date(s): December 7, 2009, May 14, 2014

Policy Sunset Date:

COA Standard(s): FKC 7.02, 9.01, 9.05, 9.06

Statement of Policy:

ChildNet ensures that children in care are provided a normal living environment as it relates to acceptable, age, behavioral and developmentally appropriate activities. This includes balancing the goals of normalcy and safety for youth and providing caregivers with as much flexibility as possible to enable youth to participate in normal day to day life experiences. This policy requires thinking and decisions to be made on an individual client level with respect to normal behavior and activities.

Board Chair's Signature:

Date:



Procedure: Normalcy for Children

ChildNet Number: CN 004.023

Original Approved Date: September 20, 2007

Procedure Revised Date(s): December 7, 2009, February 13, 2013, May 14, 2014, April 25, 2018

Procedure Sunset Date:

COA Standard(s): FKC 7.02, 9.01, 9.05, 9.06

Definitions (If any):

Statement of Procedure:

Children in foster care are to be allowed to experience opportunities as other children in the most normalized, healthy and safe method as possible taking into consideration their age, development and behaviors. ChildNet provides resources which guide all persons who exercise authority over clients in their decision making when it pertains to program planning and individual privileges for children under ChildNet's care and supervision. Arbitrary rules and informal policies are avoided when they lead to barriers and obstacles of such goals. Caregivers are trained to make decisions regarding a foster child's participation in childhood activities as any other "reasonably prudent parent" would make the same decisions consistent with Florida law.

ChildNet Responsibilities

ChildNet or designee supports foster parents and residential staff when making decisions regarding participation in activities that provide opportunities for children and youth to build skills, explore interests, and experience a sense of self efficacy and belonging. Children receive age appropriate orientation with the foster parents as to their rights, responsibilities when they are not living with their parents, rules of the home.

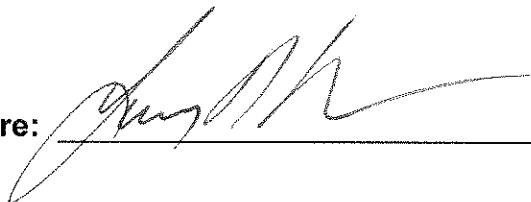
Decisions made regarding normalcy shall not contradict any existing court order. While caregivers have the authority to make decisions about normal activities of foster children in their care, the caregiver needs to consider known parental wishes in these decisions, should parental rights be intact. The assigned Child Advocate/DCM, will diligently make efforts to keep the parent(s) informed and involved, including the resolution of differences between the caregiver and parent.

- A. Opportunities are provided for children to participate in ethnic, cultural and religious activities, participate in age and developmentally appropriate group activities and after school programs. Children receive support in order to achieve their full educational potential, stability in their schools, early child hood care, tutoring, and collaboration and communication between workers, educators, foster parents, and parents.



B. In emergency situations when a foster parent has to be absent overnight and the child cannot accompany them, the foster parent may select a family or person who is well known to them to take care of the child. In these types of emergency situations, the foster parent:

- Assures the home is safe, and child proofed for the child's age and maturity level; and
- Must notify the Child Advocate/Dependency Case Manager (DCM) of the emergency arrangement made.
- The caregiver shall notify the assigned Child Advocate/Dependency Case Manager (DCM) in advance of overnight stays exceeding three (3) nights. Examples include, sleep away camps and school trips, etc.
- The assigned Child Advocate/ Dependency Case Manager (DCM) shall make efforts to accommodate planned activities for the child's participation in any related scheduled visitation.
- The Child Advocate/DCM will comply with CN 007.002 Background and Criminal History Checks.
- The assigned Child Advocate/DCM will contact the family and visits the child in the home within 48 hours.

President's Signature: 

Date: 05-04-18