



Normalcy: Let Kids Be Kids

Normalcy policy implementation and training is underway at DFS, thanks to the work of the QPI Child Welfare Workgroup subcommittee. This team of DFS staff, child welfare professionals, caregivers, youth and birth parents worked with a statewide committee to develop policies for Nevada and specifically for Clark County's normalcy initiative.

What is Normalcy?

"I believe normalcy is allowing foster youth to have the same opportunities as those children living with their parents," said one youth in foster care. "Too often there is a stigma attached to the term 'foster care' and the children that come from it."

Normalcy is the right of all youth in licensed out-of-home care to have the opportunity for normal growth and development; to be offered the chance to participate in age-appropriate activities, responsibilities and life skills. Simply put, it's allowing kids to be kids, regardless of their living circumstances.

For the normalcy policy to apply, caregivers must use a **Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS)** to determine if a child can participate in an age-appropriate activity.

What is RPPS?

This standard is characterized by careful, nurturing and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interest of a child. At the same time, it encourages the emotional and developmental growth of the child through participation in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.

"The world seems to believe that foster care is where the difficult or criminal children go, but that is far from the truth," a youth in care shared. "Normalcy is trying to let these foster youth live as close to a regular and normal life as they can with the situation they are in."

Watch *The Caregiver Courier* for upcoming trainings on normalcy and the new normalcy policy.

Let Kids Be Kids.