

Kinship Quarterly

Strengthening Families

For more information
dfps.texas.gov/kinship

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Early intervention is the process of identifying and responding to a family's concerns about a child's development. While all infants and toddlers learn at their own pace, some might need extra help to develop certain skills. ECI is a statewide program that helps them learn those skills. Children enrolled in ECI can receive a variety of early intervention services based on the child's needs.

To find a local program near you, visit citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us or call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999.

For more information [visit the ECI Website](#).

Education Specialists

Did you know that every region of Texas has an Education Specialist that you can reach out to regarding a child's education needs?

CPS education specialists help students in substitute care, and are a resource to CPS staff, caregivers, and community stakeholders.

[Check out this website](#) to find an education specialist in your area.

How to Stay Safe in the Summer Heat

Summer is in full swing and it's hot! Be in the know so you can beat the heat if you're enjoying nature's beauty at a Texas State Park.

Texas Parks and Wildlife [have tips to help keep you safe](#) if you're out and about.



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Child Protective Services

Social Media Safety

Teenagers tend to have a reckless, impulsive approach to social media (no offense). That's why it's important to think first before you post what you are thinking or feeling. Even though you may be able to delete a post, picture, or comment, you can never permanently erase anything that has been published on the internet.

Social media can be a good way to stay connected with friends, learn new things, and join positive online communities. Following our Online Safety Tips ensures teens stay connected without risking their privacy or security.

Not every caregiver is active on social media. However, if your teen is using social media... that is a good reason why you should be too. Even if you don't use social media actively, you should be friends with your teen so you can routinely check and see their posts.

Not only will this give you a chance to see what's really going on in their mind, but you can also recognize inappropriate behavior or posts, such as posting personal information. Also, teens are especially likely to express their problems on social media instead of facing them at home.

There is a way to keep tabs on your kid's social media use without ever going online. Through [parental control software](#), parents can monitor and restrict the use of social media apps.

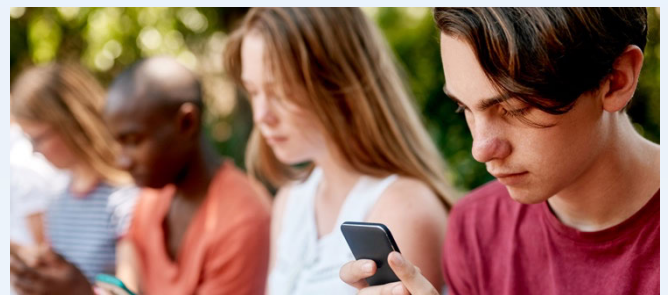
www.safesearchkids.com

Online Safety Tips for Teens

Disable location services on your phone's photo app and on Instagram, Snapchat, X etc. It's cool, sure... but it's also risky. Avoid posting that you are about to go on vacation or posting pictures while on vacation. Instead, wait until you are back home to post. Be aware of the consequences of using your phone at school.

If you do meet someone new online, **NEVER** share the name of your school, your address, or agree to meet them in person. If somebody you met online sends or requests provocative pictures, tell an adult. Predators are especially good at pretending to be other kids or caring adults. Always assume an online friend is a potential predator even if it feels like you know them – because you really don't know who they are.

Remember, people share posts that make them look good. They do not post bad pictures, or pictures that show them looking unhappy. Be careful or you could be jealous of a life that isn't at all how it appears online.



Information and Resources for Caregivers

Superior STAR Health

www.fostercaretx.com/for-members/find-a-provider.html

Parenting Tips

www.getparentingtips.com

Texas Legal Services Center

www.tlsc.org

Your Texas Benefits

www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home

2-1-1 Texas

www.211texas.org

Texas WIC

www.Texaswic.org

Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers

Kinship Care

www.dfps.texas.gov/kinship