

# Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

## January 2023

**National Human Trafficking Awareness Month**  
January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. DFPS is committed to get rid of Human Trafficking through awareness, services, and prevention efforts. Exciting and important events are happening across Texas and the United States throughout the month.

Learn more here:

[TexasEndHumanTrafficking.org](https://TexasEndHumanTrafficking.org)

## Wear Blue Day

January 11, 2023 is National Wear Blue Day, to increase awareness about human trafficking. You are invited to take photos with friends, family, colleagues, and yourself while wearing blue, and then share those photos on social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Use **#WearBlueDay**.

Anyone can participate, all you need is something blue!



Texas Department of  
**Family and Protective Services**  
*Child Protective Services*



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## Early Childhood Intervention

Texas Health and Human Services Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program works with families with children birth to 36 months old, with developmental delays, disabilities or certain medical diagnoses that may impact development. ECI services support families as they learn how to help their children grow and learn.

If you have concerns about a child's development visit the ECI Program Search page to find the ECI program in your area or call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999, select a language, then select Option 3.

[hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services)

## Learn The Signs. Act Early.

This CDC program has goals to improve early identification of children with developmental delays so families can get the services and support they need.

The program offers a lot of materials and tools to help educate families about developmental milestones and how to help your child grow and thrive. Materials are free and available in English and Spanish. Some of the materials include:

- Developmental milestones checklists
- Milestone Tracker mobile app for iOS and Android
- Children's books
- Watch me! A free one-hour training for early care and education providers
- How to Help Your Child and How to Talk with the Doctor tip sheets

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html>

## Resources

- **Superior/STAR Health**  
<https://www.fostercaretx.com/for-members/find-a-provider.html>
- **Parenting Tips**  
<https://www.getparentingtips.com>
- **Housing/Utility Assistance Programs**  
[www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/get\\_help\\_paying\\_rent.html](http://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/get_help_paying_rent.html)
- **Your Texas Benefits**  
[www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home)
- **2-1-1 Texas**  
[www.211texas.org/](http://www.211texas.org/)
- **Texas WIC**  
<https://texaswic.org/>
- **Kinship Manual**  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Kinship\\_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Kinship_Care/documents/KinshipManual.pdf)
- **Texas Kinship Caregivers Facebook Page**  
[m.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers](https://m.facebook.com/TexasKinshipCaregivers)
- **Kinship Care**  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/Kinship\\_Care/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/ChildProtection/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.**

**"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right" –Oprah**