

Kinship Quarterly Strengthening Families

July 2023

The Great Outdoors Awaits You

Texas is celebrating 100 years of State Parks. The State Parks are celebrating this summer, with events all over the state. Including Meteor Night at Lost Maples, Prairie Palooza at Palo Duro Canyon, and S'mores and Stories at Lake Casa Blanca, to name a few.

Learn more here:

tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/100years/



How to stay safe during the summer heat.

Summer is here and it is hot! Here are some great hacks for surviving the heat, while you're out at parks.

Hydrate, Block the Rays, Dress Smart, Stay Salty, Buddy System, Plan Ahead, Pup-Safety. Check out more info at the links below:

tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20230628a

tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/safety/heat-safety-info



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Child Protective Services



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Early Childhood Intervention

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 the 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 <https://citysearch.hhs.state.tx.us/> or call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999. For more information visit the [ECI Website](#).

Why is it important to address concerns early?

From birth to 36 months of age, children are learning how to communicate, explore their world and form relationships. They are also beginning to learn how to take care of themselves, like feeding themselves and showing self-control. Development happens over time by building on previously learned skills. This is why early is best.

Children with delays might learn at a different pace, but like other children their age, they are also constantly learning. ECI services are intended to help parents and caregivers understand how to encourage the natural growth and development that happens in all children and apply that knowledge to what the child needs.

Resources

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

***"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."* – Lao Tzu**