



AVOIDING HARMFUL PRACTICES:

DOING RIGHT BY TRANS YOUTH IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM



A Decade of Trans Empowerment

Caring for trans
you in the foster
care system

Do's & Don'ts

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VALIDATE THE EMOTION

DON'T

"They didn't mean it that way, you're being too sensitive, not everything is about your gender"



DO

"I understand how experiencing [...] can hurt or feel invalidating."

LET YOUTH TAKE THE LEAD

DON'T

Assuming you know someone's pronouns because of the way they look and then using them in public.



DO

Use the same language youth use to refer to gender identity; it is typically safe to ask them what pronouns to use.

TRUST

DON'T

"All youth change their minds about a lot of different things, maybe you'll change your mind about your gender, too?"



DO

Believe them when they share their gender identity with you:
"Thanks for telling me, should I use [...] going forward?"



RESPECT PRIVACY

DON'T

Using the name and pronouns the youth shared with you in front of others without explicitly knowing that you can.



DO

Ask youth who they are out to and if you can use their name/pronouns in spaces they are unfamiliar.

ALLOW ROOM FOR MISTAKES

DON'T

Apologizing multiple times for using the incorrect pronoun or name or asking the youth to forgive you.



DO

If you make a mistake, apologize and correct your mistake quickly. Then ensure you don't make the same mistake again. Be honest with yourself and the youth.



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youth.

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