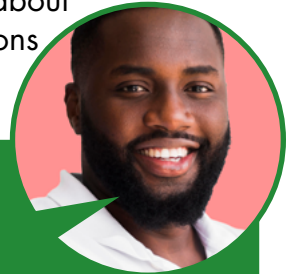


PERMANENCY PLANNING

For LGBTQ+ & Gender
Expansive Children & Youth

Tip Sheet Regarding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Expression (SOGIE)

To engage a youth around their SOGIE, be inquisitive just as you normally would with any child. Be curious and interested about who they are. Here are some possible statements/questions when engaging a youth around their SOGIE:



- “My name is (...) and my pronouns are (...)”
- “What is your name?”
- “Tell me about yourself.”
- “If you could be anyone you wanted, who would you be?”
- “If you could wear anything you wanted to, what would you wear?”
- “Do you have someone special in your life? Are you dating anyone?”
- “How do you see yourself in the future?”
- *If you know you are working with a transgender, gender queer, or gender variant youth and aren't sure how they identify, just ask: “What pronouns would you like me to use when I refer to you?”*
- *If they tell you about their SOGIE:*
“Tell me what that means to you.”
- *If they tell you about their SOGIE:* “Who have you told?”
“Who else would you like to tell that you have not yet?”
- “Who do you feel you can be yourself with? Who supports you for who you are?”
- “If you could live with anyone, who would you live with?”

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

There are also situations where a parent/caregiver is being supportive of their child's SOGIE, and a third party observes this and reports that the parent/caregiver is being abusive by affirming the child's SOGIE. When assessing for risk/harm/abuse it is essential to understand that affirming or supporting a child's SOGIE is not abuse nor neglect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REFER TO ACL 19-92

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACLs/2019/19-92.pdf>

INFORMATION

LGBTQ+ and Gender Expansive (GE) children may not feel comfortable talking about their SOGIE as they don't know if you will be affirming.

LGBTQ+ & GE youth may not tell you if they are being mistreated, abused or discriminated against in their own home for fear of being placed somewhere worse.

LGBTQ+ & GE youth are often shamed and abused for who they are or perceived to be.

Caregivers may not like to be seen in public or family gatherings with their LGBTQ+ or GE child.

LGBTQ+ & GE children are often treated differently than their siblings and other children in the home.

Caregivers may be uncomfortable or afraid for their children and youth whose actual or perceived SOGIE is different than their parent's expectations, particularly if their child expresses themselves in a manner the caregivers do not approve of.

LGBTQ+ & GE youth are often not allowed to bring their LGBTQ+ friends to the house.

LGBTQ+ & GE youth are often not allowed to date (when age & culturally appropriate).

Families come from different backgrounds, cultures and religions which construct their belief system. Some may have strong convictions about gender identity, expression, or sexual orientation.

LGBTQ+ youth are often left out of the permanency process.

STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FOR THE CHILD

Remind them you are a safe person to talk to.

What would you like me to know about you?

What is the most important thing to you right now?

If I say something that is not right, please feel free to correct me.

Do you feel safe here? If not, why?

Do you like living here? Do you want to stay here?

Do your caregivers support who you are?

Do your caregivers or other children in your home call you bad names?

Are you being treated the same way as your siblings? If not, why do you think?

Do your caregivers ever fight about you? What do they fight about?

Are you allowed to wear the clothes, hairstyles, and other things that you want?

If you could wear anything you wanted, what would you wear?

Can you bring your friends home? If not, why?

What are your family's beliefs about dating? (If allowed to date) Can you date who you want?

How does your caregiver's religion or culture influence how they treat you?

Who is supportive of you around you or in your community? In what way are they being supportive?

Who in your life supports you for who you are?

Are there people in your life you wish you could live with?

Do they know about your [insert sexual orientation or gender identity]?