



Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard

Caregiver Training



Office of
Workforce
Development
& Training

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Important Message!

If you have not already printed off *The Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard, Caregiver Training Notes Sheet*, which is located below the link to this training, please pause this training to do so now. The notes sheet will need to be completed and turned into your certification worker in order for you to receive credit for completing this training.



Caregiver Training Objectives

By the end of the training, you will be able to:

- Define what the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard is.
- Explain why normalcy is important.
- List the criteria used to determine if a foster child can participate in an activity.
- Apply the standard to common activities.



The Law

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, Public Law 113-183, Section 111.



Allows caregivers to make parental decisions based on a reasonable and prudent parent standard to maintain health, safety and best interest of the child and also decisions that support normalcy for children in foster care.

Foster Care and Certification Worker Roles

- **Caseworker**
 - Conversations with the child and caregiver to confirm the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities.
 - Documentation of those opportunities and what the foster parent or child caring institution is doing to support those activities in line with the prudent parent standard.
- **Licensing Worker**
 - Ensuring the licensed caregiver completes the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard training and is prepared adequately with the appropriate knowledge and skills to make careful and thoughtful parental decisions.

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

- The **careful** and **sensible** parental decisions to maintain the health, safety and best interest of a child while encouraging the emotional and developmental growth. The caregiver shall use the standard when determining whether to allow a child in foster care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.

Applicable Licensing Rules:

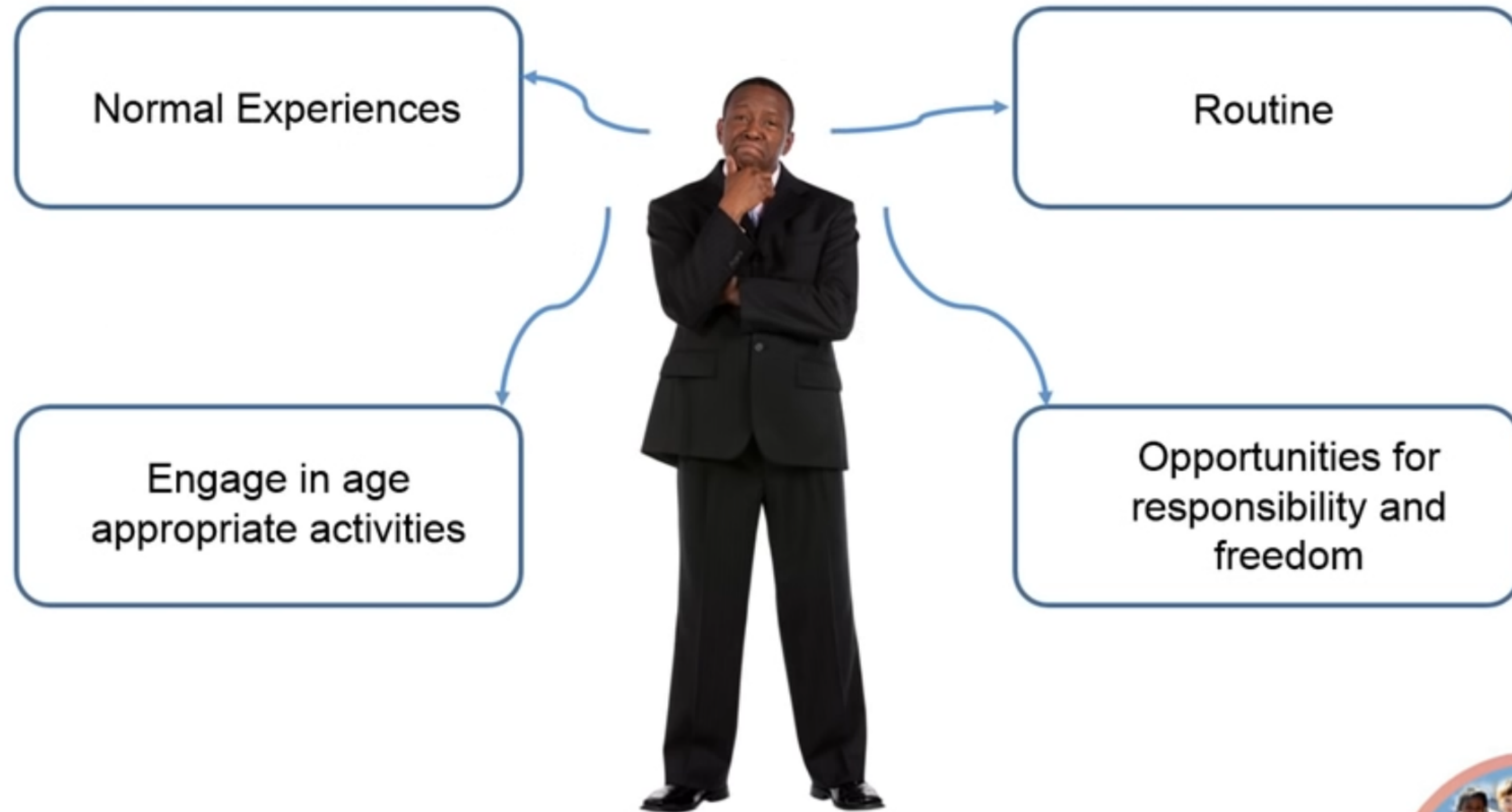
Foster Family/Group Homes

[R 400.9419 Recreation](#)

[R 400.9406 Communication](#)



Why is normalcy important?



Determining Factors

- Overall age, maturity and developmental level of the child.
- Potential risk and appropriateness of the activity.
- Federal and state laws and licensing requirements.
- Best interest of the child.
- Importance of encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth.
- Importance of providing the child with the most family-like experience.
- Child's behavioral history.



The Field Trip

- A. The caregiver can use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to make a decision.
- B. This is a decision that cannot be made by the caregiver and requires further approval.



The T-ball Team



- A. The caregiver can use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to make a decision.
- B. This is a decision that cannot be made by the caregiver and requires further approval.

Ohio?



- A. Michelle can use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to make a decision and take the children.
- B. This is a decision that requires further approval.
- C. Since the trip is out of state, Michelle is not allowed to take the children.

The Sleepover

- A. Ava's parents seem nice, the foster parent should let Mackenzie spend the night.
- B. Call Mackenzie's caseworker to ask, but decide not to let her go because it is Friday and the foster parent didn't hear back from the caseworker.
- C. Talk to Ava's parents to get more information about what the girls will be doing and who will be supervising before they made a decision.



ATV



- A. Due to Lucas' age, he is not permitted to operate 4-wheelers without a valid off road safety certificate and direct supervision of an adult.
- B. Call the friend's parents to get more information.
- C. Trust that Lucas will make safe choices and wear a helmet.

The Hunt



- A. Sign Alexander up for hunter safety to get his Hunter Education Certificate.
- B. Tell Alexander no, foster children cannot go hunting.
- C. This is a decision that cannot be made by a caregiver alone and requires further discussion and approval.

Camping Trip



- A. No, since the foster family will be boating, this is not a decision they can make.
- B. No, the foster family cannot leave overnight without approval.
- C. Yes, this is a decision that falls within the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

Internet?

- A. Yes, this is a decision that falls within the reasonable and prudent parent standard.
- B. This is not a reasonable decision to be made by the caregivers.



Home Alone

- A. No. This is not a reasonable decision to be made by a foster parent.
- B. No, Amber is not old enough to stay home alone.
- C. Yes, this falls within the reasonable and prudent parent standard.



Church



- A. This is not a decision to be made by the foster parents. They should contact the caseworker.
- B. This falls within the reasonable and prudent parent decision making, if they feel safe letting Abby go with Danielle's parents, they can let her go.
- C. Danielle's church is not the same denomination as the foster family's church, so they decide not to let Abby go.

Prior Approval Circumstances

- Any events or activities over 48 hours.
- Any events that are out of state/out of state travel.
- Participation in religious or cultural practices outside of the legal parent's chosen religion.
- Hunting – hunter Safety is required.
- Range shooting/target practice.
- Children riding as a passenger with an adult on a motorcycle or moped.
- Children operating motorized equipment or vehicle -- must also follow all age requirements and have proper training and/or certification.
- Driver's license – only a parent or guardian can sign for an application.
- Entering the military.
- Haircuts that change child's appearance, permanent hair color, piercings, tattoos and a baby's first haircut.



Additional Guidance

DHS-5331 Caregiver Guidelines for Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (DHS-5331)



In Conclusion

Understanding how to apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is important to **normalcy** for our foster youth. Normalcy is an important component of well-being to ensure that foster youth are able to have normal experiences and engage in activities that are age appropriate and allow them to grow.

Throughout this training, several examples have been used to show how the standard should be applied to everyday experiences. Although every potential situation cannot be covered in a training session, knowing where to get additional information is critical.

Congratulations on completing the
Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard
Caregiver Training.

Please turn your notes sheet into your
licensing worker to receive credit for
completing this course.

Thank you!

