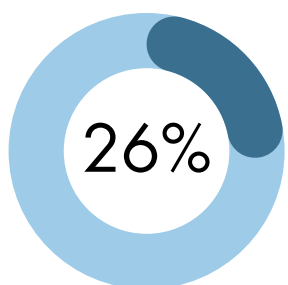


SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER YOUTH

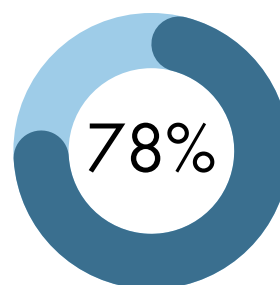
“Every kid, every youth, deserves a love that includes asking questions about who you are. What do you like? What are you interested in? And if it doesn’t vibe with your personal belief system, you have to be able to pull back and say, ‘Well, I am here to support this human being growing into the person that they’re meant to become. This isn’t about me.’”

Regarding support, let’s take a closer look at gender identity. Transgender is a term used to describe people whose gender self-image is different from the sex assigned to them at birth based on their physiological anatomy. A transgender woman is a person who identifies as a female but was assigned “male” at birth. Conversely, a transgender man is a person who identifies as a male but was assigned “female” at birth. Keep in mind the following tips when caring for a youth who identifies as transgender:

- **Transgender youth have the right to express their gender identity through their chosen clothing and the name they prefer to be called.** The clothing and personal style an individual chooses are important characteristics of self-expression.
- **Be sure to use young people’s preferred names and pronouns to validate their identity.** If you are unsure which pronoun an individual youth prefers, ask rather than assume. Some youth may be fluid in their gender identity and expression and alternate use of gender pronouns and names.
- **Avoid assumptions about transgender people’s sexual orientation.** Transgender youth may identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, questioning, heterosexual, or differently. It’s important to keep in mind that sexual orientation is separate from, and not determined by, one’s gender identity.



26% of LGBTQ+ youth are forced to leave their birth families due to conflicts with their parents regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity.



78% of LGBTQ youth were removed or ran away from their foster placements as a result of hostility toward their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Source: https://calswec.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/hrc_caring_for_lgbtq_children_youth.pdf

Publication: LGBTQ CHILDREN & Youth caring FOR all families all children - Achieving Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being by Improving Practice with LGBT Youth and Families (HRC)