

Foster Care

When Normal Ain't Normal



All young people need normal experiences. Opportunities like Driver's Education, team sports, and spending time with peers promote **healthy brain development**. The federal Strengthening Families Act requires states to ensure youth in foster care can be involved in normal activities.

Many young people in foster care are not able to participate in typical activities, making their lives anything but normal. Nearly 500 Iowa youth in AMP or Aftercare responded to a survey about their life while in placement. Here's what they said:



Social Life

27%

Of youth in **family foster care** were unable to hang out or sleep over at a friend's home

70%

Of youth in **group care** could not go shopping, out to eat, or to the movies with friends

61%

Of youth in **shelter care** did not have access to social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)



School Activities

16%

Of youth in **relative foster care** could not attend school dances

54%

Of youth in **group care** could not go on school field trips

45%

Of youth in **shelter care** were unable to participate in school sports teams, music, etc.



Milestones

74%

Of youth in **group care** were unable to take Driver's Education

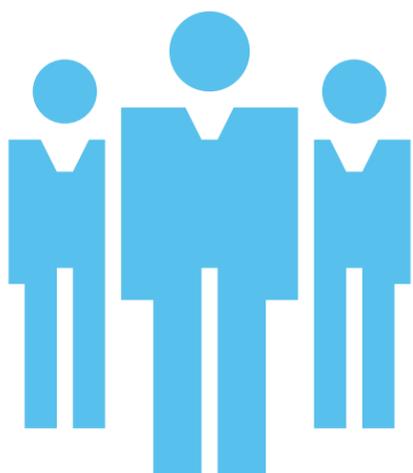
42%

Of youth in **family foster care** could not earn an allowance

13%

Of youth in **relative foster care** were unable to hold a part-time job

Help Make Foster Care More Normal



- 1 Establish in state law a right for youth in care to engage in age appropriate activities regardless of placement type.
- 2 Address barriers to participation, including cost, transportation, permission, and liability issues.
- 3 Require that courts make findings at all review hearings of engagement in normal activities and how barriers are being handled.