

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

KNOW Before You Say NO!

KNOW: *The goal of the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards is to ensure that children and youth in foster care have as normal a childhood experience as possible. In order to accomplish this goal, foster caregivers are empowered to make typically parenting decisions without having to obtain administrative approvals from DFCS or a CPA. So, before you say “no”, KNOW what that you can consider saying “yes” if the activity is age and developmentally appropriate and falls within the reasonable and prudent parenting guidelines.*

Before you say “no”, think about the following...

Is it age appropriate?

Is it developmentally appropriate?

Will it enhance the child’s social, emotional, or developmental well-being?

Does it fall within your decision-making power (RPPS)?

Has the child been placed long enough for you make reasonable and prudent decisions about them?

Do you understand the child’s developmental needs?

What information has DFCS or agency provided you about that child? Have they shared any precautions that you need to consider?

Will the activity expose the child to undue risk or safety issues?

What would it mean for the child if said “no” or if you said “yes”?

If this were your child, would you approve the request?

Would the average parent in your community make the same decision?

Those are just a few questions to think about; the list is not exhaustive. Foster caregivers have to continually weigh decisions against many factors including each individual child’s needs, abilities, maturity, and other factors. Remember , if you need help making the decision, it’s okay to still ask DFCS or your CPA.