**Case Practice Considerations for Transgender Children and Youth**

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| **Harms/Dangers/Worries** | **Safety/Acts of Protection** | **Action Steps for Social Workers** |
| Not using proper pronouns or preferred name  | Ask the child/youth which pronouns he/she/they prefer. Come to an agreement on new name that child/youth feels confident and happy with | Use the name and correct pronoun when addressing child/youth. Help support the caregiver/parent to do the same |
| Verbally putting the child/youth down or trying to get them to change their mind about their identity | Build child/youth up with compliments, understanding and support | Provide child/youth and caregiver with information and resources. Support their need to express themselves as the gender they identify with |
| Excluding child/youth from activities to avoid awkward situations | Allow child/youth to attend activities they feel comfortable with and support their decision on the attire they choose to wear | Openly support the child/youth when meeting in various locations. Address any concerns the caregiver has about taking them to activities and provide them with examples of how to approach the situation |
| Blocking access to LGBT+ friends, activities or resources | Identify with the child/youth support people and resources | Research community events, support groups, and medical providers that have experience with this population |
| Denying access of the child/youth to experience cross gender expression or play | Allow child/youth to determine which toys or clothes they prefer | Educate the caregiver on the importance of supporting the child/youth’s preference. Provide the child/youth with clothes or toys that support their preference |
| Ignoring the child/youth’s gender preference | Have open discussions with the child/youth during visits about their gender preference and any struggles they are facing.  | Plan with child/youth and caregiver how they can feel supported. Practice responses they can give when confronted by others |
| Child/youth going through puberty as the non-identified gender | Have a discussion with the child/youth and caregiver about puberty | Have information about medical providers that can consult with the child/youth and caregivers about how to address puberty |
| Child/youth having visits or contact with unsupportive family  | Advocate for the child/youth to spend time with supportive individuals. Discuss with the child/youth who is their identified support people | Have conversations with family members that are not supportive. Set rules or expectations for visitation. Advocate with the court if necessary for specific visitation orders |
| Child/youth attending medical or counseling appointments with professionals not experienced with transgender issues | Research professionals that have experience with transgender issues. If not possible, inform the professional prior to the appointment about the child/youth’s specific needs | Prepare the child/youth, caregiver and professional for the appointment. Make sure everyone has the information needed to address the child/youth’s specific needs |