

## The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard for Private Adoption Foster Parents

### 1.1 Introduction



#### Notes:

Welcome to the online training about the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard for families who are approved for private adoption.

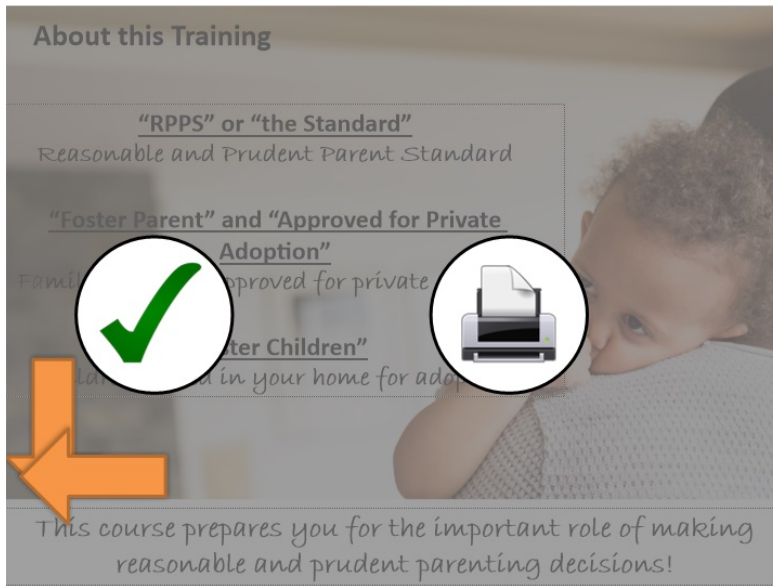
Children in out-of-home care have the right to have a normal childhood or adolescence. The people involved in their lives, including you, are responsible for creating as much normalcy as possible.

Previously, laws and policies restricted consent for normal and appropriate activities of children living in out-of-home care. Often, they also required difficult approval processes. Normal childhood activities such as birthday parties, haircuts, or participating in extracurricular events were delayed or not allowed.

In this training, you will learn about the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, which federal legislation requires and the state of Wisconsin enacted to improve normalcy for children living in out-of-home care. We'll introduce the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, explain the importance of normalcy, and walk through examples of how out-of-home care providers make reasonable and prudent parenting decisions.

Click the "Next" button to continue to the next page.

## 1.2 About this Training



### Notes:

Before we get into the main content, we'd like to share some information about language used in this training.

In the state of Wisconsin, families who are approved for adoption of domestic infants or foreign children are also required to be licensed foster parents. This is why you may hear "foster parent" and "approved for private adoption" throughout this training.

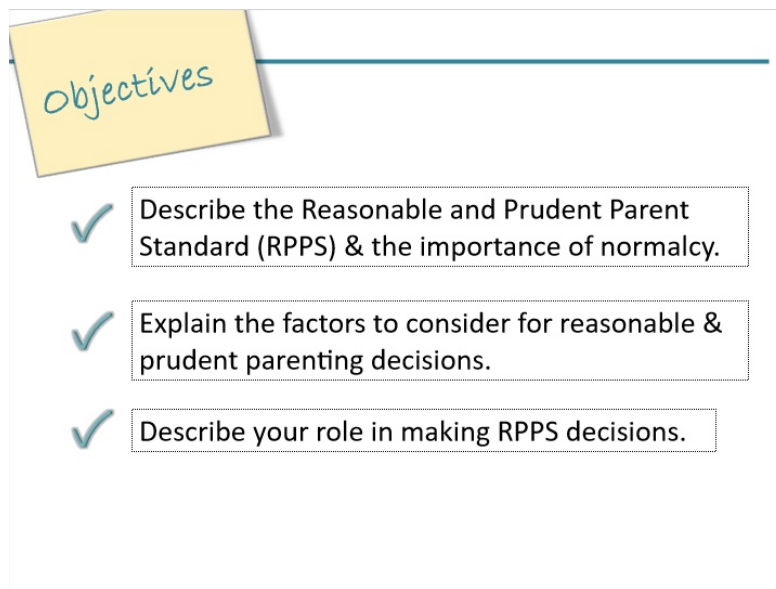
Additionally, children placed in your home for the purpose of adoption, are foster children. So, you will hear this population referred to as "foster children" or "children living in out-of-home care" throughout this training.

This training has information specific to families approved for adoption of domestic infants or foreign children. This course seeks to prepare you for the important role of making reasonable and prudent parenting decisions for the children in your care! Once you have successfully completed this training on the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, you will be able to make RPPS decisions.

To find your way around this course, here are a few tips. You can use the controls along the bottom of the window to play, pause, rewind, and move to the next or previous page. On the left side of the window, the Menu bar lists all the course pages. You can also view the Narration tab to read the script and the Resources tab for all the documents and links covered in the course. If you close the course and return to it later, you'll have the option to continue where you left off or start again. There are several quiz questions along the way to help you check your understanding. After the final quiz, be sure to print your results to document that you completed the course.

This course was created by Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families, the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System, and Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership. Our goal is to help you make reasonable and prudent parenting decisions, so you can provide the children in your care with a normal childhood.

### 1.3 Objectives



The graphic features a yellow sticky note in the top left corner with the word "Objectives" written in blue cursive. To the right of the sticky note is a horizontal blue line. Below the line is a list of three objectives, each preceded by a blue checkmark and enclosed in a dotted-line box:

- ✓ Describe the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS) & the importance of normalcy.
- ✓ Explain the factors to consider for reasonable & prudent parenting decisions.
- ✓ Describe your role in making RPPS decisions.

#### Notes:

Upon completion of this course, you should have the knowledge & skills to...

- Describe the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard & the importance of normalcy.
- Explain the factors to consider for reasonable and prudent parenting decisions. And,
- Describe your role in making RPPS decisions.

## 1.4 Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard - What is it?



### Notes:

Legislators heard from current and former foster youth that they weren't able to "be a kid" while in out-of-home care. Being in care prevented them from building relationships with peers or experiencing normal personal growth, and that negatively affected their well-being. The federal government responded with the requirement for reasonable and prudent parenting to increase normalcy for children in out-of-home care.

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 included the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. This law requires out-of-home care providers, including you, to apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard when making decisions involving children placed in their care, so they can allow children to participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities.

This law requires all foster parents to apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard when making decisions about children in foster care to allow them to participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities. This standard is not used for children who are with a foster parent for respite or children who are living with relatives under voluntary kinship care.


As a foster parent, you will use this standard on a child specific basis to allow children placed in your home to participate in activities that encourage normalcy and emotional and developmental growth, while still maintaining the health, safety, best interest, and cultural, religious, and tribal values of the child. The types of decisions you will make for children placed in your home for the purpose of adoption, may look much different than decisions made by foster parents caring for children through public child welfare. This is partly due to

the young age of children who are typically placed for private adoption.

If you have questions about decisions you can and cannot make, you should talk with your adoption agency.

### 1.5 The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard Defined

#### The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard Defined



**From the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS):**

A standard for an out-of-home care provider to use in making decisions concerning a child's participation in age and developmentally appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities that is characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, best interest, and cultural, religious, and tribal values of the child, while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of a child.

Activities that are generally accepted as suitable for children of a given chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child based on the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for children of a given age or age-group or, in the case of specific child, activities that are suitable for the child based on the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of that child.

*How would you make this decision for your own child?*

#### Notes:

Simply put, reasonable and prudent parenting is sensible parenting. It allows caregivers to make decisions on a day-to-day basis that will not delay a child from having normal experiences. Every decision is particular to the child and the situation.

Another way to frame prudent parenting is to ask, "How would you make this decision for your own child?"

Take a moment now to read the definition of the Standard on screen before continuing.

## 1.6 Who Does RPPS Apply to?

### Who Does RPPS Apply to?

Out-of-home care providers, including:

- ✓ Foster parents (relative or non-relative)
  - Levels 1-5 Foster Homes, **Including pre-adoptive homes**
- ✓ Guardians
- ✓ Unlicensed Relatives
  - Court-Ordered Kinship Care Providers
- ✓ Unlicensed Non-Relatives
- ✓ RPPS Decision Makers at a Residential Care Center, Group Home, or Shelter Care facility

*Providers may not opt out!*

- ✗ Respite providers and Voluntary Kinship Care providers are **not** included in the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard.



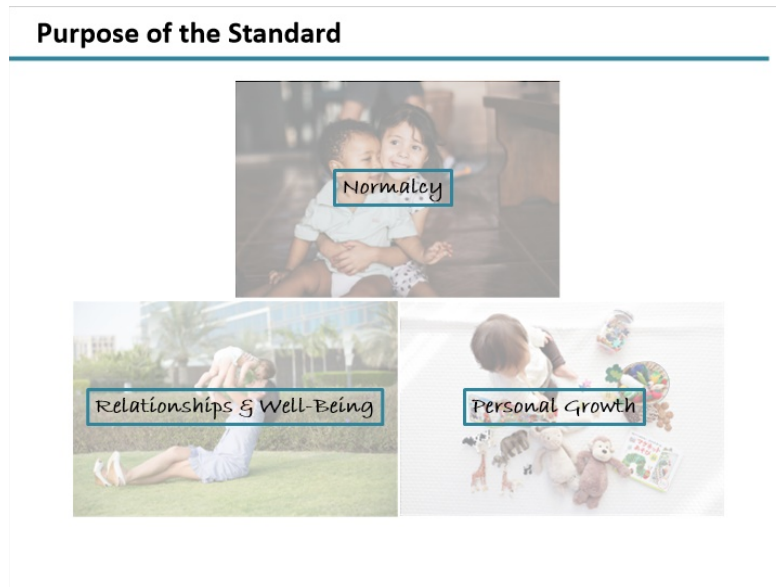
### Notes:

It's the responsibility of all involved in the child welfare system to promote normalcy for children living in out-of-home care.

Specifically, out-of-home care providers must use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to determine if a child may participate in an age-appropriate activity. Review the list to see who this applies to. This includes you, as a foster parent approved for private adoption.

Providers **may not** opt out of this required practice!

## 1.7 Purpose of the Standard




### Notes:

Over the next few pages, we'll explore the purpose of the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, which includes creating and promoting normalcy, building relationships and improving well-being, and personal growth.

## 1.8 Create and Promote Normalcy

**Create and Promote Normalcy**

*easily engage in activities*



*well-being  
growth  
development*

*social  
scholastic  
enrichment*

### Notes:

Normalcy is the ability to easily engage in healthy and developmentally appropriate activities that promote well-being and personal growth and development, such as social, scholastic, and enrichment activities. The standard promotes normalcy for children in out-of-home care by allowing them to pursue their interests, engage in the same activities as their peers, build skills for their future, and promote a trusting, caring relationship with their caregivers. This takes place while still keeping the health, safety, and best interest of the child as the priority.

Normalcy needs to be promoted for all children in out-of-home care, no matter their permanence status. Their childhood should not be stunted because they are placed in out-of-home care.



## 1.9 Improve Well-Being & Build Relationships

### Improve Well-Being & Build Relationships

 <p><b>Peers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friends</li><li>• Social skills</li><li>• Commonality</li></ul>	 <p><b>Siblings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fair</li><li>• Inclusive household</li></ul>	 <p><b>Caregivers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consistency</li><li>• Trust</li></ul>
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### Notes:

Another goal of reasonable and prudent parenting is to improve the overall well-being of children by creating opportunities to build and normalize relationships.

Ultimately, the standard will improve a child's social and emotional development by building their peer relationships. Many children in out-of-home care have experienced some form of trauma and need additional support with emotional development, well-being, and understanding social cues. Some children may need more support and guidance from their caregiver to engage in activities similar to their peers. When children experience normalcy, they can participate in common activities that give them opportunities to make and maintain friends, and develop relationship problem-solving skills.

Relationships between foster children and other children in the home benefit from prudent parenting. These decisions promote a fair & inclusive household by creating shared experiences among all children.

Lastly, the standard promotes more consistency and trust between the caregiver and the child. All children test boundaries and break rules. As a caregiver, you should provide supportive and consistent guidance to help children think through life circumstances. This teaches them natural consequences and how to make positive choices. And, all the while, builds a trusting parent-child relationship.

## 1.10 Personal Growth



### Notes:

Out-of-home care placements need to be a safe place for children to grow and make mistakes.

Through reasonable and prudent parenting, you make decisions that are child-specific and encompass a child's development and personal growth. Youth develop life skills, such as obtaining employment, and social skills, through increased opportunities of peer interaction. They can pursue interests by exploring different activities.

All children should be allowed to try new things, make decisions, and fail at times, while still under the guidance of caring adults. All children make mistakes and these should be seen as opportunities for growth.

**1.11 Which of the following items define or demonstrate normalcy?**

**Check all that apply.**

*(Multiple Response, 10 points, 3 attempts permitted)*

Which of the following items define or demonstrate normalcy?

Check all that apply.

- Easily engage in healthy and developmentally appropriate activities.
- Participate in the same activities as other children in care.
- Allow them to pursue their interests.
- Allow them to do whatever they want to do.
- Bring them to and from childcare, and nothing outside of that.

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice
X	Easily engage in healthy and developmentally appropriate activities.
X	Participate in the same activities as other children in care.
X	Allow them to pursue their interests.
	Allow them to do whatever they want to do.
	Bring them to and from childcare, and nothing outside of that.

**Feedback when correct:**

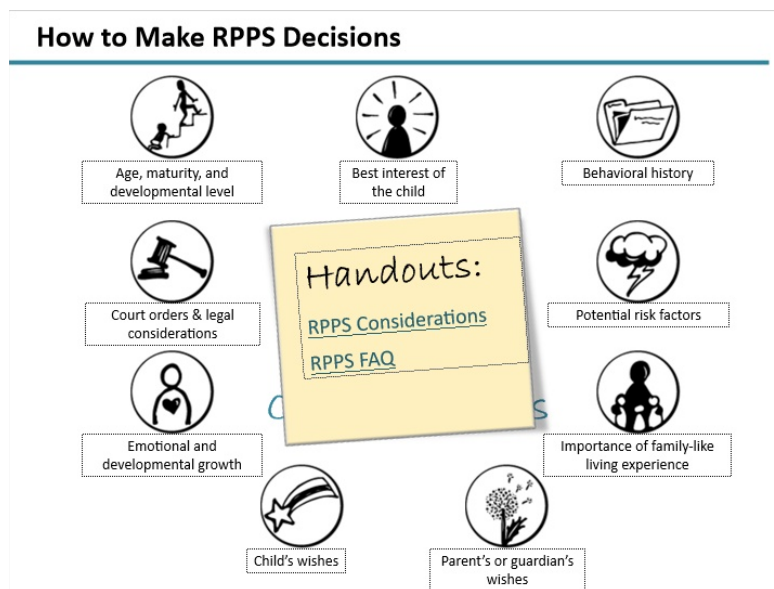
That's right! Normalcy is the ability to easily engage in healthy and developmentally appropriate activities that promote well-being, personal growth, and development, such as social, scholastic, and enrichment activities. Normalcy can be promoted by participating in activities similar to peers or other children in care, as well as encouraging children to pursue their interests. It does

not promote normalcy to allow the child to do anything they want or to do nothing else outside of school.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

You did not select the correct responses. Normalcy is the ability to easily engage in healthy and developmentally appropriate activities that promote well-being, personal growth, and development, such as social, scholastic, and enrichment activities. Normalcy can be promoted by participating in activities similar to peers or other children in care, as well as encouraging children to pursue their interests. It does not promote normalcy to allow the child to do anything they want or to do nothing else outside of school.

**1.12 How to Make RPPS Decisions**



**Notes:**

When determining if a decision is reasonable and prudent, you must consider the following:

The child's age, maturity, and developmental level

The best interest of the child

The child's behavioral history

Court Orders & Legal Considerations

Cultural, Religious, & Tribal Values of the child and the child's family

Potential risk factors

The child's emotional and developmental growth

The importance of family-like living experience

The child's wishes, and

The child's Parent's or Guardian's Wishes

You also need to make sure the child has taken any necessary training for participation in an activity, and any necessary safety equipment is provided to the child.

These considerations should be made for each specific child, situation, and activity. You should recognize that these considerations are flexible and can change from day to day.


Here are two helpful handouts. One introduces the consideration and the other covers frequently asked questions.

In addition to the list of considerations, you should use as much information as you can to make prudent parenting decisions.


Next, we'll take a closer look at each consideration along with examples of common situations.

### 1.13 Age, Maturity, & Developmental Level

**Age, Maturity, & Developmental Level**



age, maturity, and cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities



**Example:**  
Should 3-year-old Aiden participate in a field trip?

#### Notes:

First, let's discuss the child's age, maturity, and developmental level. The intention of this decision-making factor is to match an activity with the child by considering their age, maturity, and cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities.

Remember that many children in out-of-home care may not be functioning at their chronological age, so you need to be sure to consider this for each individual child. It is also important to consider that children who have a physical, emotional, or learning disability should not be excluded from the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. All children in out-of-home care must have equal opportunities to participate in activities and experience normalcy in all areas of their lives.

Here is an example of when to consider age, maturity, and the developmental level of a child.


As a foster parent, you are deciding whether 3-year-old Aiden can participate in a field trip through his childcare provider.

The opportunity to participate in the field trip may be a great opportunity for him to participate in the same activities as his peers. Going on a field trip is appropriate for many children, but a reasonable and prudent parenting decision depends on many factors for the individual child, not simply their chronological age.

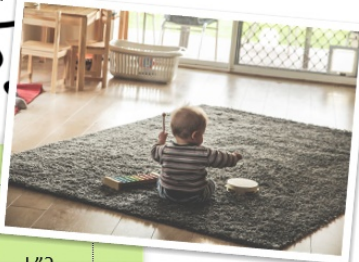
As a foster parent, you must evaluate how much supervision Aiden will need during the field trip just like any parent would. You must consider all areas of the child’s functioning, including behavioral history, in combination with age. This includes any behavioral concerns that may put other children on the field trip at risk, such as anger or frustration.

### 1.14 Best Interest of the Child

#### Best Interest of the Child



Does this best serve the child or the best interests of someone or something else?



**Example:**  
Is Anna interested in music class?  
Or, does the foster parent want a “break”?

#### Notes:

The next factor, the best interest of the child, involves giving primary consideration to the child through a thoughtful assessment.



A good question to ask is, “Does this best serve the child? Or the best interests of someone or something else?” We want to view situations through the eyes of the child.

Consider an example of whether to register a child, Anna, in a music class. Are you sending Anna because she is interested in music and will benefit from it, or, do you only have the motive of giving yourself a “break”?

As a foster parent, it’s important to remember to encourage children to voice their opinions and thoughts, when it is age appropriate, to ensure their best interests are being served.

## 1.15 Child's Behavioral History

### Child's Behavioral History



**Important:**

- \* Information about the child
- \* Building trust & setting parameters
- \* Get creative with solutions!

**Example:**  
Kaitlyn fears strangers... Can you hire a babysitter to care for her?

### Notes:

Another consideration that factors into each decision is a child's behavioral history. This consideration stresses the importance for you to be given as much information about the child as possible.

You should keep in mind the importance of building trust and setting parameters with the children in your care. Conversations with your adoption agency must also occur when behavioral history has a great impact on the decision being made, such as a child that struggles with their attachment or has an extreme fear of strangers.


Try to get creative if a child's behavioral history is swaying you to say "no" to a normalcy activity.

For instance: You are trying to hire a babysitter to care for the child, Kaitlyn, when you run errands or have a date night. But, Kaitlyn struggles with attachment and does not do well in the care of someone she is not familiar with. This may be a deterrent to hire a babysitter. However, try to get creative. Perhaps, the new babysitter can come to the house a few times and spend time with Kaitlyn while you are also home. This will give Kaitlyn time to get familiar with the new caregiver before she is left alone with them. Once she is comfortable with the new babysitter, it may be appropriate to leave Kaitlyn in the babysitter's care while you run errands.

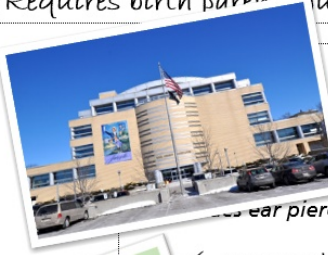


## 1.16 Court Orders & Legal Considerations


### Court Orders & Legal Considerations




Requires birth parent or guardian consent:



✓ Decisions cannot go against any court order.



✓ Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard only covers extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities, not just any decisions made for the child.



Department of Public Instruction (School) Individual Education Plan (IEP), etc.

*This is not an exhaustive list.*

### Notes:

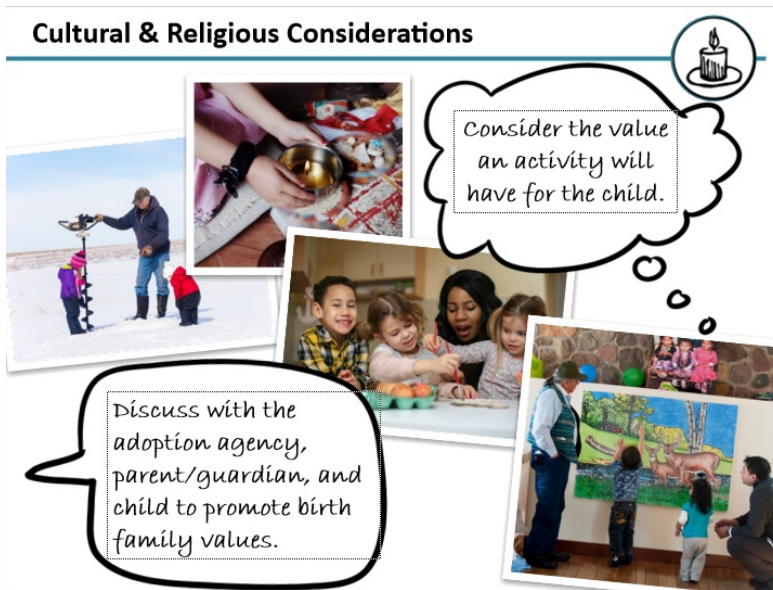
Court orders and legal considerations also factor into reasonable and prudent parenting decisions. Decisions cannot go against any court order. Prudent parenting decisions must follow the law and other legal considerations. You should work with your adoption agency to be sure Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard decisions are consistent with any applicable laws.

Remember, that the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard only covers extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities, not just any decisions made for the child.

Any type of medical consents, medication changes, doctor's examinations, vaccinations, and therapy instruction still require parent or guardian consent. You may not use reasonable and prudent parenting authority to make any type of medical decisions for the child in your care. This also includes ear piercing. If you are unsure if you have guardianship of the child, and therefore may have the authority to make these decisions, you should talk with your adoption agency.

Lastly, the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard does not apply to Education. IEP decisions and other educational topics that are dictated by law still require parent or guardian consent. Remember that extracurricular activities or field trip permission slips **are** areas where you can apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to promote normalcy.

## 1.17 Cultural & Religious Considerations




### Notes:

Cultural and religious considerations are important and complicated factors when making decisions for your child both pre- and post-adoption. Reasonable and prudent parenting decisions made for your child prior to adoption must take the child's cultural, religious, and tribal factors into consideration. This may be difficult depending on the situation, as the child and the parent or guardian may have different ideas and opinions about their values. You must carefully weigh these factors when making decisions. It may be appropriate to discuss these factors with the child's parent(s) and your adoption agency to determine how these considerations are applied in your decision making while the child is awaiting adoption finalization.

Ho-Chunk Daycare Image source: ©UW-Madison University Communications. Photo by: Jeff Miller

## 1.18 Potential Risk Factors


### Potential Risk Factors



Risk varies based on the type of activity and the specific circumstances.

**Example**

Riding to daycare  
vs.  
Running errands after dark



### Notes:

Another consideration when making a reasonable and prudent parenting decision involves assessing potential risk factors of the activity.



Every situation has its own potential for risk, which varies based on the type of activity and the specific circumstances. Each situation should be considered individually. Risk factors may appear in many different ways, such as inadequate safety equipment, supervision levels, or a lack of information.

Risk assessment includes whether the child is adequately prepared to safely participate in an activity. You must ensure that children have the necessary training and proper safety equipment in order to participate in certain activities.

For example, a decision for 1-year-old Dakota to ride in a car with your seventeen-year-old child, Cory, may change depending on the surrounding circumstances and level of risk. It may be reasonable and prudent to allow him to ride with your son to and from childcare, but the same may not be true for running errands after dark.

## 1.19 Emotional & Developmental Growth

### Emotional & Developmental Growth



Promote positive emotional & developmental growth?

**Example:**  
Keegan is very active and social. Should the foster parent register him for a toddler group?

### Notes:

The emotional and developmental growth of the child must also be considered when making reasonable and prudent parenting decisions. You must assess the activity and circumstance to determine if it will promote positive emotional and developmental growth. Interacting with peers and participating in team activities allows the child opportunities to develop social and emotional skills. For younger children, participating in a variety of activities, such as soccer, swim lessons, and t-ball, encourages positive emotional and developmental growth.


It is important to note that even when you know that the child in your care may not be successful at something the child should still be encouraged to try out, as it could be an experience of personal growth.

The following example illustrates the importance of encouraging and allowing a child to participate in extracurricular activities.

Keegan is a very active and social two-year-old. Should you register him for a toddler group, knowing that it could provide good social interaction and build his self-esteem?



## 1.20 Family-Like Living Experience

### Family-Like Living Experience



Is this something I would let my children do?

Is the only thing preventing the activity the fact that the child is in care?



**Example 1:**  
A caregiver allows the children in their care to jump in a bouncy house along with their other kids...

**Example 2:**  
A caregiver's own child and their foster child were invited to the same sleep over...

### Notes:

When you are faced with a decision, you should consider whether the activity will promote a “family-like” living experience. You should consider whether the activity is something that other members of the family can do. A child’s status of being in out-of-home care should not be the only thing preventing the child from doing the activity. You should allow the child to experience living like a member of the family, not just a child placed in your home.

Decisions could range from simple to more complex.

A typical situation may be for you to allow a child placed in your care to jump in a bouncy house at a festival along with your other kids, without needing to get agency or parent consent.


A more involved decision would be if your own child and your foster child were invited to the same sleep over. You would make this decision for both your child and foster child, using similar considerations, regardless of the foster child’s placement in out-of-home care. You should consider what any parent would do in a similar situation, such as, have a conversation with the other parent, ensure they understand any necessary care needs of the child (medical or otherwise) ensure that a proper level of supervision will occur, and provide emergency contact information.

A decision to allow a child to participate in an activity that you would allow your own child to participate in could be reasonable and prudent. A child’s status of being in out-of-home care


should not be a barrier to taking part in a normal activity that other household members participate in.

### 1.21 Child's Wishes

**Child's Wishes**



Provides learning opportunities, promotes transition to adulthood, and empowers children.



#### Notes:


Alongside the multiple considerations that you must take into account when making decisions, a child's wishes are also a factor. A child has their own ideas about what makes them feel normal and similar to their peers. You will consider the child's wishes as appropriate for the child's age and developmental level.

When it is age and developmentally appropriate, input from the child can create more trust, empowers the child, encourages their growth and development, allows them to explore their personal interests, and allows the child to be part of the decision-making.


This does not mean that every time a child asks to do something you are required to say yes. You have to make decisions based on the individual child and the current situation. The intent is to encourage normalcy. The "no" should not be because the child is in out-of-home care. The "no" should be based on a reasonable and prudent parenting decision.

## 1.22 Parent/Guardian Wishes & Input

### Parent/Guardian Wishes & Input



- ✓ Discuss RPPS decisions with parents/guardians for valuable insight into child
- ✓ Not required
- ✓ Not the determining factor



### Notes:


As we touched on earlier, parent and guardian input should be taken into account when you make decisions about whether a child can or should participate in an activity.

Many times, the child's parent or guardian is no longer involved with a child who is placed for the purposes of a private adoption. However, as appropriate and feasible, you should discuss and consider any reasonable and prudent parenting decisions with parents and guardians prior to a termination of parental rights and with your adoption agency.

Parent or guardian wishes are not required for each decision and should not be the determining factor. You may apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard without parental consultation on each decision

### 1.23 Quiz

The following Yes or No questions relate to what decisions a foster parent can or cannot make when applying the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard.

Click forward to continue 

Notes:



**1.24 Can a foster parent sign a permission slip for a field trip?**

(True/False, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Can a foster parent sign a permission slip for a field trip?

Yes

No

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice
X	Yes
	No

**Feedback when correct:**

That's right! Extra-curricular and recreational activities are normal experiences for children that provide many opportunities to develop and improve social skills, develop their interests, and gain skills.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The correct answer is "Yes."

Extra-curricular and recreational activities are normal experiences for children that provide many opportunities to develop and improve social skills, develop their interests, and gain skills.

**1.25 Can a foster parent pierce a child's ears?**

(True/False, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Can a foster parent pierce a child's ears?

Yes

No

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice
	Yes
X	No

**Feedback when correct:**

That's right! Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute. A consent form is required from the parent or guardian.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The correct answer is "No."

Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute. A consent form is required from the parent or guardian.

**1.26 Can a foster parent sign up a child for a sport team or club?**

(True/False, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Can a foster parent sign up a child for a sport team or club?

Yes

No

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice
X	Yes
	No

**Feedback when correct:**

That's right! Extra-curricular and recreational activities are normal experiences for children that provide many opportunities to develop and improve social skills, develop their interests, and gain skills.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The correct answer is "Yes."

Extra-curricular and recreational activities are normal experiences for children that provide many opportunities to develop and improve social skills, develop their interests, and gain skills.

**1.27 Can a foster parent consent to a child's vaccinations?**

(True/False, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Can a foster parent consent to a child's vaccinations?

Yes

No

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice
	Yes
X	No

**Feedback when correct:**

That's right! Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute. A consent form is required from the parent or guardian..

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The correct answer is "No."

Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute. A consent form is required from the parent or guardian.

**1.28 Can a foster parent consent for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?**

(True/False, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Can a foster parent consent for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

Yes

No

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice
	Yes
X	No

**Feedback when correct:**

That's right! Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute. A consent form is required from the parent or guardian.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The correct answer is "No."

Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute. A consent form is required from the parent or guardian.

**1.29 Can a foster parent consent to medical treatment?**

(True/False, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Can a foster parent consent to medical treatment?

Yes

No

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice
	Yes
X	No

**Feedback when correct:**

That's right! Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The correct answer is "No."

Use of this standard cannot override existing court orders/rulings and decisions related to visitation, therapy, other related schedules, or existing laws applicable to other areas, such as medical and educational statute.

### 1.30 Liability

**Liability**



*The fear of liability should not prevent normalcy.*

Links:  
[State Statute on liability](#)  
[RPPS FAQ handout](#)

#### Notes:

Next, let's address a common concern - liability.

The fear of liability should not prevent a child in out-of-home care from experiencing normalcy.

If you have acted in accordance with the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, you will not be liable for harm to the child or others as a result of the approved activity.

The State Statutes that address liability for out-of-home care providers can be found at this link:  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/895/11/485>

For additional guidance on liability, you can consult the handout on frequently asked questions.  
(<https://wcwpds.wisc.edu/related-training/fcc/m6/docs/RPPS-FAQ.pdf>)

### 1.31 Disagreements

**Disagreements**

That decision is not what mine would be for my child. **VS.** That decision didn't use the Standard properly.

**In a disagreement over the application of RPPS, the agency is responsible.**

- ✓ Agencies may change decision if not reasonable & prudent.
- ✓ Evaluate carefully with input from team.
- ✓ Consider if actions need to be taken.

#### Notes:

You should be empowered to make decisions without relying on the agency. Only serious disputes should lead you to rely on agency intervention and mediation. Typically, the agency does not get involved with the actual decision.

For example, if the parent or guardian does not like a decision that you made because it is different than what their decision would be, this is not a disagreement with the application of the Standard.

On the other hand, if the parent or guardian feels that a decision was made without proper use of the Standard, such as a disregard for cultural considerations, this may be a disagreement in which the agency is involved.

In any disagreement over the application of the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard, the agency is ultimately responsible for the decisions concerning the care of the child. Agencies may change the decision if it is not reasonable and prudent, but should evaluate the situation carefully and with input from the parent or guardian, foster parents, and other members of the team.

In situations where a decision was made and it is later determined not to be reasonable and prudent, the agency may need to consider whether actions need to be taken, such as additional training, or corrective actions.



### 1.32 RPPS Success Is Everyone's Responsibility!

#### RPPS Success Is Everyone's Responsibility!



**Resources:**

- ✓ [RPPS Brochure](#)
- ✓ [RPPS Considerations](#)
- ✓ [RPPS FAQ](#)

**Foster Parent Responsibility:**

- Make RPPS decisions
- Give child opportunity to participate in activities
- Record big decisions made

#### Notes:

Everyone involved in the child welfare system is responsible for promoting normalcy for all children living in out-of-home care. We hope you feel more prepared to support reasonable and prudent parenting decisions.

When a child is placed in your home, the adoption agency will provide you with specific information about the child to consider when making normalcy decisions for the child.

If you do not have enough information about the child in order to make a reasonable and prudent parenting decision, you should contact the adoption agency for more information about the child. Remember, the agency can help you understand how to apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, but they cannot make the decisions for you.

For additional information on the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, please look at these resources. The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard brochure (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5105.pdf>), the RPPS considerations handout (<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/related-training/fcc/m6/docs/RPPS-considerations-handout.pdf>), and the Frequently Asked Questions handout (<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/related-training/fcc/m6/docs/RPPS-FAQ.pdf>).

On the next page, you'll complete the final "Check Your Understanding" quiz. Once you pass,

you should print your training certificate to document when you completed this RPPS training and provide this to your adoption agency.

### **1.33 Final Quiz**

#### Check Your Understanding *Final Quiz*

When you pass the quiz, you'll have the chance to print your results or send a confirmation email.



Remember to share this with the child welfare agency in order to document your training completion!

#### **Notes:**

**1.34 The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard allows:**

(Multiple Choice, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard allows:

- Foster parents to make all of the decisions regarding a child in their care.
- Children in foster care to do what they want while in care as long as it makes them feel "normal".
- Children in foster care to participate in any activity that gives them a family-like living experience.
- Children in foster care to participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities.

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice	Feedback
	Foster parents to make all of the decisions regarding a child in their care.	False. Parent/guardians maintain the ability to make major decisions regarding the child and the child's best interest and should be consulted by the foster parent when making a reasonable and prudent parent decision.
	Children in foster care to do what they want while in care as long as it makes them feel "normal".	False. Children/youth should be consulted when caregivers are making a decision but the foster parent maintains the ability to say "yes" or "no"
	Children in foster care to participate in any activity that gives them a family-	False. Children/youth can be allowed to participate in family-like experiences;

	like living experience.	however, there are several other factors to take into consideration when making a decision for a child/youth to participate in an activity.
X	Children in foster care to participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities.	True. The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard allows children in foster care to participate in activities, while maintaining the health, safety, best interest, and cultural, religious, and tribal values of the child.

**1.35 When making a reasonable and prudent parenting decision when appropriate you should consult:**

*(Multiple Choice, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)*

When making a reasonable and prudent parenting decision when appropriate you should consult:

- The child's parents/guardians
- The adoption agency
- The child
- All of the above

Click the check mark below when you are done.

Correct	Choice	Feedback
	The child's parents/guardians	Incorrect. Make sure to consult with all of the above parties when making a reasonable and prudent parenting decision when appropriate and feasible. Remember, you do not need approval or permission, but it is best practice to consult and discuss the normalcy decisions that impact the child placed in your home when possible. Talk to your child welfare agency to utilize time during team meetings to discuss any upcoming reasonable and prudent parenting decisions and the promotion

	of normalcy for the child placed in your care.
The adoption agency	Incorrect. Make sure to consult with all of the above parties when making a reasonable and prudent parenting decision when appropriate and feasible. Remember, you do not need approval or permission, but it is best practice to consult and discuss the normalcy decisions that impact the child placed in your home when possible. Talk to your child welfare agency to utilize time during team meetings to discuss any upcoming reasonable and prudent parenting decisions and the promotion of normalcy for the child placed in your care.
The child	Incorrect. Make sure to consult with all of the above parties when making a reasonable and prudent parenting decision when appropriate and feasible. Remember, you do not need approval or permission, but it is best practice to consult and discuss the normalcy decisions that impact the child placed in your home when possible. Talk to your child welfare agency to utilize time during team meetings to discuss any upcoming reasonable and prudent parenting decisions and the promotion

		of normalcy for the child placed in your care.
X	All of the above	Correct! Make sure to consult with all of the above parties when making a reasonable and prudent parenting decision when appropriate and feasible. Remember, you do not need approval or permission, but it is best practice to consult and discuss the normalcy decisions that impact the child placed in your home when possible. Talk to your child welfare agency to utilize time during team meetings to discuss any upcoming reasonable and prudent parenting decisions and the promotion of normalcy for the child placed in your care.

### 1.37 RPPS Review



**Summary**

- ✓ The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS)
- ✓ Importance of normalcy
- ✓ Considerations for making prudent parenting decisions
- ✓ Your responsibility as a foster to make reasonable and prudent parenting decisions

#### Notes:

In the prudent parenting slides, you have learned about:

- The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, and
- The importance of normalcy,
- The considerations for making prudent parenting decisions, and
- Your responsibility as a caregiver to make reasonable and prudent parenting decisions.



**1.38 Conclusion**

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**Thank you for completing the course:**

*The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard  
for Private Adoption Foster Parents*