

**Advocating For
The Best Interest Of
LGBTQ Foster Youth**

- **To increase awareness of language used when speaking about and with LGBTQ foster youth**
- **To increase self-awareness in regard to perceptions and assumptions about, and interactions with LGBTQ foster youth**
- **To develop greater understanding of LGBTQ foster youths' experiences and perceptions in regard to their development, behaviors, and role in their community**
- **To develop ways to walk with LGBTQ foster youth that will encourage exploring and developing a more healthy, stronger foundation for relationships and life**

Goals for the day

- **How can this lens impact the CASA's relationship with the youth?**
- **How might it be possible for the lens to be the relationship?**
- **What are some elements of your own lens that affect your interactions with people who are LGBTQ+?**

What is your lens?

- 1. What are the costs to a young person if they come out?**
- 2. What are the benefits to a young person if they come out?**
- 3. What are the costs to a young person if they remain closeted?**
- 4. What are the benefits to a young person if they remain closeted?**

COST/BENEFIT

Potential Stressors

**Acceptance/rejection
of experience**

**Living
'in the closet''**

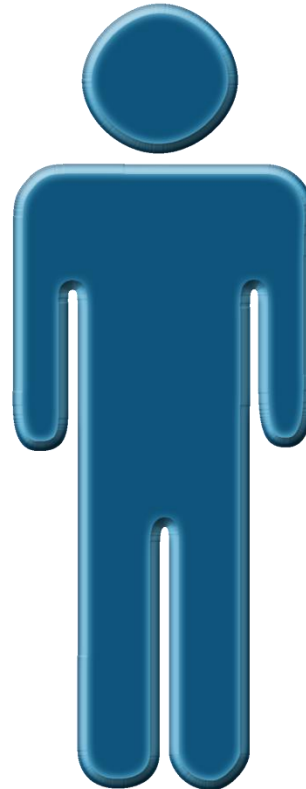
**Defining self in
relation to LGBTQ+**

**Other
stress
sources**

Grieving

Suicidal

**Other
Relationships**



**Anger,
Depression,
Fear**

Defining LGBTQ+

**Begging God to
change them**

**Coming
out**

Assumptions

**Family
Placement**

**Reconciling faith
and sexuality**

- **How do we know what good and what toxic support is?**
- **How does a young person learn what is good and what is bad in an LGBTQ+ relationship?**
- **What are you putting in place now to create a safe space later?**

Being a supportive CASA for kids

- **We hope you contact us if you have specific questions on your journey.**
- **greg@bridgeevidencegroup.org**
- **diane@bridgeevidencegroup.org**

- **Bridge Evidence Group**
- **PO Box 888-160**
- **Grand Rapids, MI 49588**

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