

KLS - Listening and Learning

Q: Can we explore Feeling Safe vs Being Safe? Do we also need to look at our definition of "safe"? Physically, emotionally, and psychologically?

A: Yes! This Listening and Learning Session was intended to help staff look at safety from another perspective and to help them understand why DCYF is moving towards a kin-first culture as a mitigating factor. Staff are encouraged to learn more about the Harm of Removal and trauma-informed care through training at [Training Events - Family and Youth Justice Programs, The Alliance for Professional Development, Training and Caregiver Excellence](#) and [Washington State Learning Center \(WSLC\)](#).

Q: What are we doing about teens who do not want to agree to a DCYF plan that might involve a new placement?

A: Teens have their attorneys who represent their interests in court.

Q: Are there any resources for families not involved with Child Welfare that help provide respite care? Let's say there is a baby in the family and for the mom/dad to get a break. Are there any monetary resources for the family that help provide respite?

A: Families can apply for Child Care Subsidy and utilize Crisis Respite Care. To learn more about these services, review these two links: [Getting Help Paying for Child Care](#) and [Other Child Care Programs](#).

Q: We are often asked why we are putting more money and resources toward family members when there are concerns about the relative placements. Why would we not just return them to their parents and put those resources with the parents instead?

A: Washington state is investing in preventative services for parents and removal from parents is a last resort. Supporting kinship placements is a way to reduce the harm of removal that children experience when they must be removed. To learn more about prevention services, review this link: [Family First Prevention Services Act](#).



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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