

Do's and Don'ts



When talking about transition age foster youth ...

Don't

Use transition age youth without defining it or including the word “foster.”

Just describe racial disparities in the foster care system.

Focus solely on vulnerability and risk.

Focus on permanent damage and trauma.

Just highlight individual stories of overcoming the odds or falling through the cracks.

Talk about transition age foster youth as uniquely troubled.

Do

Include the word “foster” up front or give a clear definition of who these youth are.

Be explicit about how inequities like racial discrimination shape the experiences of foster youth.

Talk about healthy development and wellbeing.

Start with opportunity and community.

Use the “Steep Climb” and “Plugged In” metaphors to talk about how to support foster youth.

Talk about similarities to other adolescents’ needs and supports.
