



Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

ASK THE YOUTH

Question One: Tell us what you would like your foster parents to know.

“The hardest part about moving so many times is not having anyone to tell you that they love you.”

“Be loving and give us support.”

“Be willing to listen, even if you don’t have the time to listen.”

“We’re not perfect. Please be there when we fall.”

“Love us like we’re your children.”

“Show us respect and we will show you respect.”

“Help us to see our siblings, our brothers and sisters. They are so important to us. Sometimes they are the only people who love us and then we are prevented from being with them. Please don’t make us suffer more than we already have.”

“When we first arrive, please make us feel welcome, were afraid that you won’t like us and just sent us away.”

“It’s the little things that count. If you are cooking, please teach us and let us be a part of it. Involve us in the little everyday stuff that makes us feel like we are a part of the family.”

“Don’t just tell us you love us. Show us tangible love. Be involved and teach us.”

“Respect our privacy.”

“Give us more opportunities to do things outside of school, like extracurricular activities.”

“Trust us and we will trust you. Give us opportunities to prove to you that we are trustworthy.”

“Give us many chances when we mess up. Don’t just give up on us.”

“Support our talents, whether you like them or not. If we are involved in something, please show up.”

“Be our advocates in the system. Most people don’t hear us.”

“Take us where ever you take your biological kids.”

“Remember that we have no choice in being here. We didn’t do anything wrong, but were the ones who have to live with the results.”

“Foster parents need to show us the way. We need their help.”

“Treat us the same way you treat your biological kids. It makes us feel bad when we are left out. It reminds us that we aren’t part of your family.”

“Plenty of times I had no one who cared or listened to me. I don’t need to add someone else to the list.”

Question Number Two: Please tell us of good and bad things about your social workers.

“My social worker was always there for me when I had problems.”

“I almost never heard from my social worker.”

“They need fewer cases per social worker, so they can see us more often.”

“They need to really listen to us, because sometimes they are the only people we have.”

“My first social worker was never a part of my life, I felt worthless, alone. So when I was transferred to another social worker, I sat in her office so she would make time for me. And we eventually grew to have a relationship.”

