

During your time in care, you should have the chance to take part in activities that allow you to grow, develop and have fun!



Change your personal appearance



Your caregiver cannot force you to change your personal appearance, such as your hairstyle. If you are old enough and want to change something, you and your caregiver should discuss it. Remember, if the answer is no, it is ok to ask why.

You want to...

Get a part-time job



Part-time jobs are a good way to make extra income. First, you must consider how you will get to/from work, the amount of time you will be able to work and if it will affect your schoolwork. Then, be prepared to discuss with your caregiver if you are ready for the responsibility of having a part-time job.

Hang out with friends



No need for background checks, you and your caregiver can decide. Remember, safety first, sometimes there are reasons adults say no. Talk to your caregiver to make sure safety is in mind and that plans are in place, that way, you can get to YES!

Get a driver's license



If you are 16 or older, you may legally get a driver's license. However, if you are under 18, your caretaker may have to grant permission on your driver's license application. Driving is a big responsibility, talk to your caregiver. Together you can decide if you are ready to get your license.

Be on social media



Privacy & safety are important, your caregiver will probably have this in mind when they do/do not give permission and they may want to check on what you are posting. You can use social media, but you need to talk about privacy, safety, and permissions with your caregivers.



Take part in extracurricular activities



You will have to decide with your caregiver if it is appropriate for you to take part. Sometimes your caregivers may need to talk to your birth parents about giving permission. Be ready to discuss how it will effect school, your part-time job and the other people that live with you.

You want to...

Open your own bank account



If you want to open a bank account, there may be rules based on age and it may require a caregiver's signature. If you open an account, it is a great chance to learn money management, listen and ask questions.



@YouthInProgress



@YIPNewYork



@Youthinprogress_ny

Own a cell phone



You can have a phone, but your caregiver may want to discuss things like, how will you pay for it? Will you be responsible and not misuse use it? Remember owning a cell phone is a privilege and not a right. Be responsible and safe if you own one.