FAMILY ACCEPTANCE PROJECT® POSTERS TO BUILD HEALTHY FUTURES
FOR LGBTQ-2S & GENDER DIVERSE CHILDREN & YOUTH

https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/

The **Family Acceptance Project® (FAP)** has published research-based posters to educate family members, providers, spiritual/religious leaders, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer-identified and Two Spirit (LGBTQ-2S) youth and others about the critical role of family support for LGBTQ-2S children and youth to prevent suicide and other serious health outcomes and to build healthy futures. This Poster Guidance provides information about the posters and gives suggestions for how to use them. **Please share this Poster Guidance with anyone who uses and receives the posters.**

The posters are designed to be used in all settings:

- To educate the public, families, caregivers, providers, religious leaders and LGBTQ-2S young people – about the critical link between specific family rejecting and accepting behaviors with risk and well-being for LGBTQ-2S children and youth, especially suicide.

- To serve as an education and intervention resource to help families to decrease rejection to prevent risk and to increase acceptance and support to promote well-being for LGBTQ-2S children & youth.

Research-Based Education Resource – The posters share information from FAP's peer-reviewed studies and family support work with ethnically, racially and religiously diverse families and their LGBTQ-2S children. FAP's research has identified more than 100 specific accepting and rejecting behaviors that parents, families and caregivers use to respond to LGBTQ-2s and gender diverse youth. FAP researchers measured these behaviors to show how family rejecting behaviors contribute to serious health risks like suicidal behavior, depression, substance use, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. FAP's research also shows how family accepting behaviors help protect against risk and promote well-being. These posters build on FAP's other evidence-based prevention and intervention resources including multilingual family education booklets and videos designated as Best Practice resources for suicide prevention for LGBTQ-2S young people.

Different Versions – FAP has published 3 versions of the posters and this Poster Guidance in English, Spanish, 8 Asian languages and this version for American Indian communities. These include: 1) a general family acceptance version; 2) a family rejection version; and 3) a family acceptance version for use in conservative settings that does not include family behaviors related to dating that might prevent the posters from being used in some settings.

A key finding from FAP's research is that a little change makes a difference. So, parents and caregivers that are struggling can start by decreasing some of the rejecting behaviors they use to try to change, deny or minimize their child's sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to reduce their child's risk for suicide and other serious health concerns and to increase their child's self-esteem and hope for the future. Parents and caregivers that are struggling can start to adopt some of the family accepting and supportive behaviors that FAP has identified and measured to show their LGBTQ-2S children that they love them, they want to support them and to help decrease their health risks.

Evaluation – FAP is evaluating how the posters are used and their impact on youth, families and others who use them. When someone downloads the posters, FAP asks for an email address to send them a short online survey with a request to participate in an optional phone interview to share feedback and stories about how the posters impact children, youth and families.

Where to Get the Posters – Anyone can download camera-ready versions of the posters from FAP's website. This includes printing information to give to your local print shop, with artwork for this Poster Guidance that describes the posters and give suggestions for using them. Be sure to print copies of this Poster Guidance to give to anyone who uses and receives the posters so they can explain what the posters are and ways to use them with families, caregivers, spiritual leaders and others.

Languages – The posters are currently available in English, Spanish, 8 Asian languages and this version for American Indian communities.

Poster Sizes – FAP's basic poster size is 24" x 36" to be easily seen in a waiting room, hallway, clinic exam rooms, library or training space. Other print sizes include: 18" x 24," 11" x 17," and 8.5" x 11" to use as a handout, for families to hang on a refrigerator, for home use and at activities and events.

Using the Posters – The posters are meant to be used everywhere. This includes: Clinics; schools; family service agencies; primary care & behavioral health services; prevention programs; child abuse programs; suicide prevention services; early childhood programs; child welfare, juvenile justice, homeless, residential schools and other programs; college counseling centers; community centers; libraries and community centers.

- **Schools** – school provider services (counselors, family advocates, therapists, nurses, social workers); school health clinics; school events and health fairs on a family table with LGBTQ-2S resources; for use in hallways; locker rooms; and to share in cultural clubs.

- **Clinical Services** – exam and treatment rooms; waiting rooms; for use in assessment, counseling and education with LGBTQ-2S young people and families; home visits; family therapy; on Health TV media; to teach children and youth about what acceptance and rejection look and feel like; for use in assessment to identify family reactions and the impact these behaviors have on LGBTQ-2S and gender diverse children and youth; in school-based services and college counseling centers.

- **Personal & Home Use** – give them to youth and families to use at home; hang in family spaces to review and routinely assess family growth and change and talk about how these behaviors affect communication, connectedness and relationships; give to extended family members and cultural leaders.

- **Spiritual & Faith-Based Groups** – use in educational spaces and events; share with spiritual/religious leaders, pastoral care providers and congregation members.

- **Community Events** – use as handouts at events and conferences, youth camps and to share in public spaces.

- **Training** – use in trainings for agency staff, families, caregivers and providers in all settings, including professional training and student trainees, in continuing education and with family and youth advocates.

Information & Follow Up – If you have received the poster from someone else, and want to help us learn how the posters are used and the impact they have with LGBTQ-2S and gender diverse children, youth and families – or for more information – please contact us at: fap@sfsu.edu

FAMILY ACCEPTANCE PROJECT®

The **Family Acceptance Project**® is a research, education, intervention and policy project at San Francisco State University that helps diverse families learn to support their LGBTQ-2S and gender diverse children in the context of their families, cultures and faith communities. FAP was launched 20 years ago to conduct the first comprehensive research on these youth and families and to develop the first evidence-based family support model to be integrated into systems of care and across practice domains. This includes behavioral health, primary care, school-based services, residential care, youth and family services and spiritual care to reduce risk and to support positive development for LGBTQ-2S children and youth.

FAP's family support model is being integrated into behavioral health, family preservation and foster care, faith-based mental health and other services. FAP's intervention framework is also being applied in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).

FAP provides training on family-based care for LGBTQ-2S children, youth and young adults and helps agencies to integrate FAP's intervention framework into their programs.

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