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.

https://familyproject.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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