

FAMILY REJECTION



Some families believe that the best way to help their LGBTQ child is to help them try to fit in with society. This may mean trying to change or suppress the youth's sexuality, gender expression, or identity.

Missed Connections

As a parent or caregiver, stopping connections to LGBTQ resources can harm you and your youth



Block access to LGBTQ community



Keep knowledge to oneself



Isolate from others



Rejecting Ways That Harm

Telling child/youth to keep silent about their LGBTQ identity and making them keep it a secret in the family



Blocking access to LGBTQ friends, events & resources and excluding LGBTQ youth from family and family activities



Physically hurting child/youth because of their LGBTQ identity



Trying to make LGBTQ youth fit in can harm them. These are some ways:

Pressuring child/youth to be more (or less) masculine or feminine and verbally harassing them because of their LGBTQ identity



Blaming child/youth when they are discriminated against because of their LGBTQ identity and telling them that their identity goes against your religious beliefs



Impact on Youth

By stopping connections and making youth fit in, you and the LGBTQ youth can be harmed

8x as likely to attempt suicide



6x as likely to report high levels of depression



3x as likely to use illegal drugs



3x as likely to be at high risk for HIV & STDs



FAMILY ACCEPTANCE



Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & questioning (LGBTQ) youth who feel loved and accepted by their families about their sexuality, gender expression, or identity are more likely to believe they will have a good life and be happy adults

Connections

As a parent or caregiver, making connections to LGBTQ resources can help you and your youth



707-251-9432

Call LGBTQ Connection



Seek resources to understand



Connect with other parents and find allies

Accepting Ways That Show Love

Expressing affection

when child/youth tells you or you learn that they are gay or transgender



Love is an action. Show LGBTQ youth you care by practicing these:



Supporting child/youth's LGBTQ identity and gender expression and talking with them about it even though you may feel uncomfortable



Connecting child/youth with other LGBTQ resources and bringing them to LGBTQ organizations or events

Welcoming

child/youth's friends & partners into your home and requiring other family members to respect them



Standing up

for child/youth when they are mistreated because of their LGBTQ identity in school, church, or at the doctor's office



Impact on Youth

Making connections and showing acceptance can have a positive impact on your LGBTQ youth



Child/Youth can **stay alive**

Child/Youth can have a **healthy life**



Child/Youth can be open to return **love**

Child/Youth can **help others**



LGBTQ
CONNECTION

707-251-9432

www.lgbtqconnection.org