
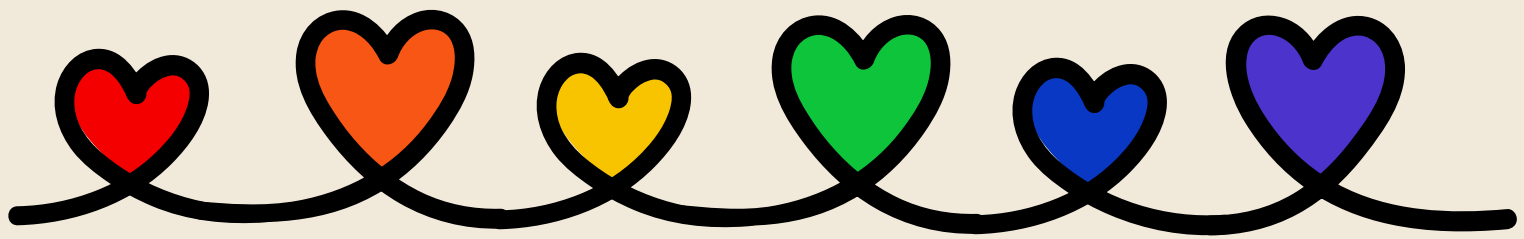


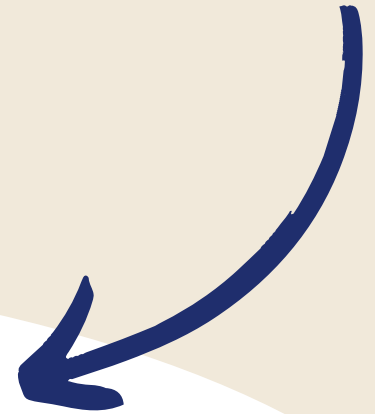
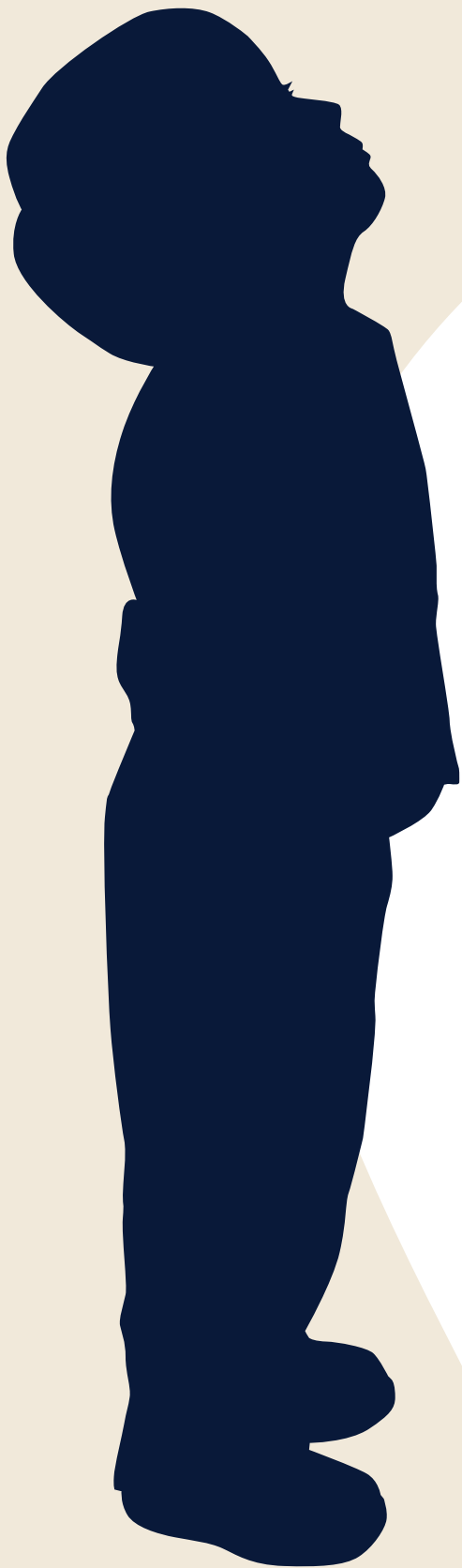
Queer Youth and the Child Welfare System.

A zine exploring the experiences of
queer youth and foster parents
involved in the child welfare system.





Queer youth are **overrepresented** and **underserved** in the child welfare system.



This means that despite the high prevalence of LGBTQIA+ youth and children in the child welfare system, their unique experiences, needs, and perspectives are often overlooked or undervalued.

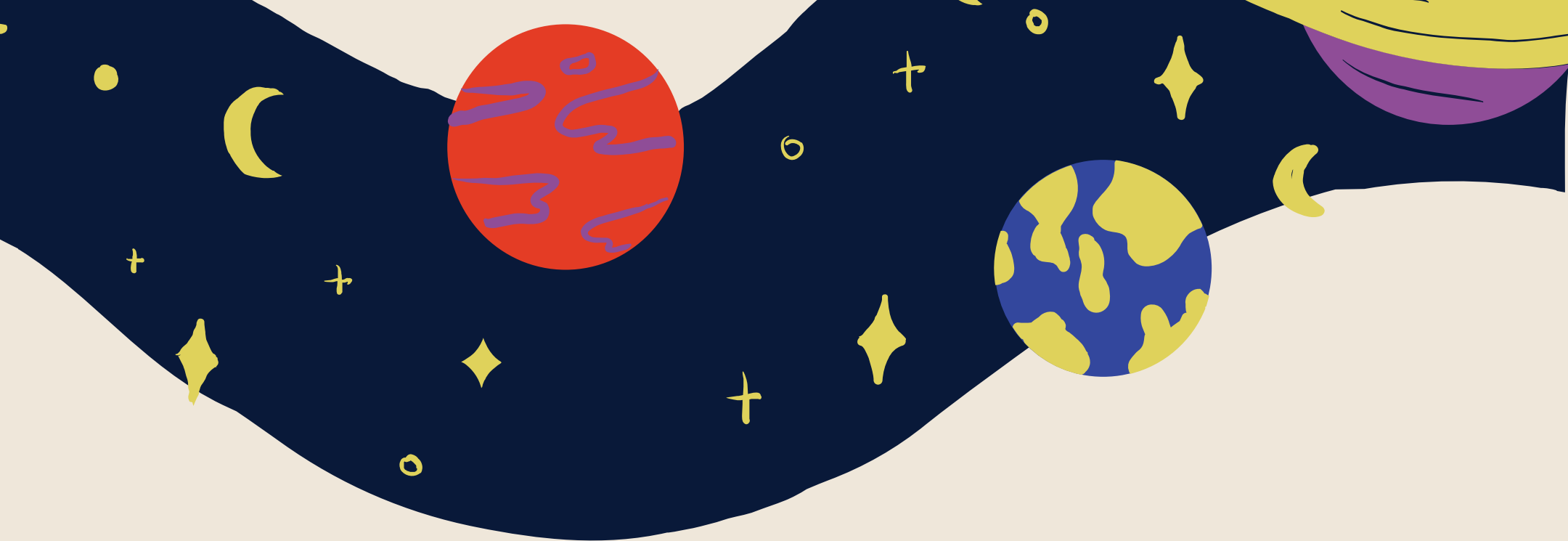
Queer youth are often **marginalized** throughout the child welfare system "from referral into the system to aging out or leaving care."



- (Kaasbøll et al., 2022)

Studies show that queer youth have higher rates of mental health issues, emotional distress, and experiences of discrimination than cisgender and/or heterosexual youth in the child welfare system.





Queer foster parents face similar discrimination.

Despite the increasing amount of queer folks who enter the child welfare system with the intention to be foster parents, LGBTQIA+ adults often face discrimination and prejudice from service providers.




Queer foster parents report experiencing increased **scrutiny** and **pressure** to hide their queer identity.

Queer foster parents are often automatically considered “second best” to heterosexual or cisgender foster parents, despite the fact that research shows that trans foster parents tend to be more open or accepting of queer youth, BIPOC youth, and youth with documented mental or behavioral issues.



Researchers suggest that child welfare **social workers** and **service providers** should undergo explicit training on how to serve LGBTQIA+ youth.



"The overall findings from the survey conducted by Greeno et al. (2021) suggest that on average the sample of child welfare employees 'do not know' how they feel about the LGBTQ population."
- (Kaasbøll et al., 2022)

Attitudes and opinions like this within the child welfare system directly affect queer youth, and can put them in **danger**.



Queer youth in the child welfare system deserve **safe spaces** and responsible **adult advocates**.



Queer foster parents **should be a valued part** of their system of care.

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands of color. From top to bottom, the colors are purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, and pink. The waves flow from the top right towards the bottom left, creating a sense of movement.

Citations

Kaasbøll, J., Pedersen, S. A., & Paulsen, V. (2022). What is known about the LGBTQ perspective in child welfare services: A scoping review. *Child & Family Social Work*, 27(2), 358-369.