

OREGON CHILD WELFARE

TEXTURED TENDING PROCESS GUIDE

Inspired by an initiative in District 2 to provide equitable services and care to the children we serve.

TEXTURED TENDING

ODHS Child Welfare knows that hair and skin care routines are an important part of development for all children, particularly when those routines occur with birth family. When children experiencing foster care are unable to participate in those routines with their birth family, their resource parent must learn and adapt to caring for the specific hair and skin care needs. Sometimes, resource parents are unsure how to meet the hair and skin care needs of the children they are caring for and are in need of additional supports. While there are a variety of free [videos](#), [websites](#), and information packets available (check out the packet from [ORPARC Hooray for Hair Care!](#)), some resource parents still need additional support.

As always, it is most important to engage birth parents as early on in the process and whenever possible. In many cultures, hair is considered sacred. Caring for a child's hair is a ritual and a necessary bonding experience for a child and a family member. For our black and brown families with textured hair, caring for it requires patience, time, intention, and creativity. For example, "wash day" is a certain day in a month when close to the entire day is spent washing, conditioning, combing, and styling you or your child's hair.

"For black women, Wash Day isn't a routine — it's a ritual. From the products we choose to the spaces we create, the time we spend caring for our hair connects us to ourselves, our culture, and the people we want to be."
-Aimee Simeon

The cultural bond of hair care is not just in relation to the parents, it is extended to aunts, cousins, siblings and close family friends. If we are unable to provide a hair care experience in direct care of birth parents, we should engage the parents, child and ourselves by asking these questions:

- How do you care for your child's skin and hair and how often?
- What products does your child use?
- Is there a certain hair style your child prefers?
- What does the skin and hair care routine look like?
- Are there any family members who the child has previously had tend to their hair or skin?
- Are there any family members willing to have hair care visits?
- Is there a hair stylist you prefer to use?

If there is no familial or close friend contact to be able to provide the care necessary to these children, it is important to engage an affirming hair provider within the community.

This step should be only after engaging the family/child on what their needs are, as mentioned earlier, hair care in families should remain sacred and valued. Tending textured hair and black and brown skin care is a talent and a skill, not all resource families are able to provide the necessary techniques and expertise in these regards. It is most important to empower our children through self-expression and good hygiene by providing adequate care.

The Child Welfare Foster Care and Equity, Training and Workforce Development is excited to share a new service available in OR-Kids to meet the wellbeing needs of children and youth experiencing foster care:

Textured Tending Products and Textured Tending Appointment/Consult

To access the service, follow these steps:

Youth or Resource Parents with their caseworker will be able to utilize the one-time payment process already in place locally. See suggested steps below:

1. Caseworker completes Funding Request Form (CEI300) requesting authorization to purchase item(s) and submits to supervisor for approval (physical signature).
2. Supervisor approves Funding Request Form (CEI300).

IN OR-Kids: Worker

3. Caseworker attaches receipt copy to signed funding request form CEI300 and scans form and receipt into ORKids case file cabinet.

[Create > Case Work > File Cabinet > 'Services' > Case > Case Participant > Type 'Other']

IN OR-Kids: Payment Clerk

1. Caseworker provides form and receipt copy to payment clerk for processing.
2. Payment Clerk creates One-Time Payment(s) in OR-Kids and selects Credit Card Method.
[Create > Financial Work > One Time Payment Request]
4. Payment Clerk provides SPOTS Card Holder with Payment ID.
5. Payment Clerk sends completed payment request to Office Manager for approval.
[Options menu > Approval > Go]

For questions about completing a one-time payment, use the [One Time Payment RG](#) and/or seek guidance from your supervisor, MAPS, mentor or coach.

Payments can be requested for services or products prior to the services taking place (or products purchased) and be paid directly to the provider or supplier. This could be helpful for instances like hair care classes or styling sessions that are scheduled ahead of time and/or take place on a regular basis.

Reimbursement can be requested for services or products already paid for. In this instance Receipts will be needed to obtain reimbursement.

In either scenario a monthly limit up to \$250.00 is available for children and youth in need. Did you know? ~Note for workers~ This counts towards reasonable or active efforts for children or youth; and maintaining cultural practices, including hair and skin care, is another way to help reduce trauma.

For any questions, please reach out to the Child Welfare Equity Team at

Childwelfare.equity@dhsola.state.or.us



TEXTURED tending

learning type: visual

“For black women, Wash Day isn’t a routine – it’s a ritual. From the products we choose to the spaces we create, the time we spend caring for our hair connects us to ourselves, our culture, and the people we want to be.”
–Aimee Simeon

Hair and skin care routines are an important part of development for all children, particularly when those routines occur with birth family. When children experiencing foster care are unable to participate in those routines with their birth family, their resource parent must learn and adapt to caring for the specific hair and skin care needs. Sometimes, resource parents are unsure how to meet the hair and skin care needs of the children they are caring for and are in need of additional supports.

resources: (links are clickable)

[videos, websites & info.](#)

[ORPARC Hooray for Hair Care! Packet](#)

reminders

- engage birth parents whenever possible
- in many cultures, hair is considered sacred and a bonding opportunity
- caring for textured hair requires patience, time, intention and creativity
- the cultural bond of hair care is extended to aunts, cousins, sibling and close family friends

questions to ask

How do you care for your child's skin and hair, and how often?

What products does your child use?

Is there a certain hair style your child prefers?

What does the skin and hair care routine look like?

Are there any family members who the child has previously had tend to their hair or skin?

Are there any family members willing to have hair care visits?

Is there a hair style you prefer to use?



We should encourage and empower our children through self expression and good hygiene by providing adequate care.

Tending the hair and skin of black and brown folks is a talent and skill, not all resource families are able to provide the necessary expertise and techniques in these regards.



if no familial contact

engage an affirming hair provider within the community

utilize the new service available in OR-Kids to meet the diverse needs of children and youth experiencing foster care

how to access:

Youth or Resource Parents one-time payment process

Caseworker completes Funding Request Form (CE1300) submits to Sup.

Supervisor approves Funding Request Form

Worker / OR-Kids

Attach receipt copy to signed CE1300 and scans into OR-Kids case file cabinet

[Create>Case Work>File Cabinet>Services>Case> Case Participant> Type 'Other']

Payment Clerk

Caseworker provides form and receipt copy to payment clerk for processing

Payment Clerk creates One-Time Payment(s) in OR-Kids and selects Credit Card Method
[Create>Financial Work>One Time Payment Request

Payment Clerk provides SPOTS Card Holder with Payment ID

Payment Clerk sends completed payment request to Office Manager for approval
[Options menu > Approval > Go]

tips & info

Payments can be requested prior to services or products being purchased

Monthly limit \$250

This counts towards reasonable or active efforts and maintaining cultural practices—reducing trauma!

[One Time Payment RG](#)

For questions reach out to: childwelfare.equity@dhsosha.state.or.us