

Below you will find ideas for building
relationships with youth on your caseload.

***Consider your role and agency funding when doing these activities.**

- Be available!
- Ask open ended questions.
- Walk to the park.
- Go hiking.
- Get ice cream/lunch/dinner/coffee/snack.
- Play card/board games.
- Go to their sports games, theater performance, band/orchestra, etc., and cheer them on!
- Take them to their extra curricular activities.
- Take them skating.
- Go to a movie. ([Here is a list of movies to help encourage thoughtful conversation about emotions, permanency, and adoption.](#))
- Cook a meal together.
- Make cookies.
- Toss a football, hit a baseball, kick a soccer ball, etc.
- Do art projects together. For ideas check out these books: Art Lab for Kids by Susan Schwake, The Big Summer Activity Book by Anne and Peter Thomas, and Tinkerlab: A Hands On Guide for Little Inventors by Rachelle Doorley.
- Take them to the beach and do some beach combing.
- Take them swimming.
- Bring them to swimming lessons.
- Teach them how to play an instrument.
- Have them teach you something that interests them.
- Play video games together.
- Go to the zoo.
- Work on a resume with them/practice interview skills with them.
- Teach them how to ride public transportation (for older youth that take public transportation alone).
- Show them how to use Excel, Microsoft Office, etc.
- Proofread school assignments with them.
- Build Lego bricks with them.
- Both of you read the same book and have your own book club. ([Here is a list of books to help encourage thoughtful conversation about emotions, permanency, and adoption.](#))
- Play make believe with them.
- Play some games that the current generation might not know about, for example, Kick the Can, Duck Duck Goose, Cats Cradle, Red Light Green Light, Foursquare, Marco Polo, hand clap games like Say Say oh Playmate, etc. (Google them if you are not familiar.)

