



Resource Family Connection

News, Events and Information Benefiting
the Children of Waukesha County
September / October, 2016



Helping Achieve School Success By: Coalition for Children, Youth and Families

Getting ready for school can be an overwhelming experience for a child as well as for foster parents. You may have a child in your home beginning a new school, returning to the same school, or may have a new child coming into your home during the school year who you haven't even met yet. There's a lot of information and things to remember. We hope the following will help you and your child prepare for having a successful school year.

Preparing to Start at a New School

The first step in starting at a new school is making sure to register your child. You also need to make sure that the new school obtains previous school records. If your child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 plan, make sure you also get a copy.

School districts vary widely in their enrollment processes. If you run into any issues, hopefully, your worker and your child's parents can help in the process.

Additionally, talking to former teachers is often helpful in understanding what your child might need to be successful at the new school.

In order to help ease some stress for both you and your child, try to meet with the current teacher before starting at a new school. For more information, see the Coalition's tip sheet *Helping Kids in Care Change Schools*.

Other things you might consider include:

Volunteering in the classroom a day or two a week, or as often as your schedule permits, or joining your child for lunch to help with this transition. If you aren't able to be with your child at school, maybe a scheduled phone call to check in during the day can help him feel more at ease. Your child may only need you to do so until they are feeling comfortable. However, some children may need extra support from you throughout the school year.

Finding out what works best for ongoing communication between you and the teachers. This might be regularly scheduled phone calls, emails, or a communication notebook that goes back and forth. Being proactive can help your child have a successful school year - don't wait until conference time to address issues.

Sharing information before your child starts school. When children enter care, their home environment has changed and this often impacts their school performance. Ideally, all of you - birth parents, child welfare worker, child, and yourself - will meet together before school starts. If that is unable to happen, then talk with those same people about what information you can share and what should be kept private.

Your child may feel stigmatized from being in the foster care system. He may not want his peers or even school staff to know that he is in care. Talk with your child about how to address this before he starts school.

As with many things, who you know and learning the unspoken rules is what helps you the most. Getting to know teachers, school staff, and other parents is invaluable. "I still get intimidated at times, especially when enrolling a new student or when my kids change teachers," says one veteran parent. "But it helps that I have a good relationship with the office staff."

Day-to-Day Reminders

When working with schools, keep the following in mind:

- ✦ *Maintaining confidentiality.* Your child being in care is private information, not to be shared without proper consent. You may also want to see the Coalition tip sheet, *Respecting the Confidentiality of Children in Care and their Families* on this topic.

(continued on page 2)



Required Training For All Relative Care Providers, Level 1 and Level 2 Foster Homes

* This training is not required for Voluntary Kinship Placements *



The Federal Legislation referred to as the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 required the State of Wisconsin to move towards requiring a "Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard" for children placed in out-of-home care. This requires the use of the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS) be used to allow a child placed in out-of-home care to be able to participate in age and developmentally-appropriate activities. As a part of this standard, it requires that Out-of-Home Care providers have specific mandatory RPPS training.

The LAST training which will be held for current foster parents will be held on September 15, 2016. ALL out-of-home care providers MUST be trained by that date. Your foster care license will be put on hold if you have not completed the training to align with Federal and State Requirements.

The training will be two hours in length, and will count towards your annual training requirement.

Please use the following link to RSVP for the last training session:
<https://prudentparentingwithdaycare.eventbrite.com>

Helping Achieve School Success (Continued from page 1)

- ✦ *Working with birth parents.* School is a good avenue to team with birth parents to advocate for your child. Birth parents know their children and you can build on that knowledge when working with teachers and other school staff.
- ✦ *Setting attainable goals.* Remember your child's developmental and skill levels and adjust your perceptions. Meet them where they are team up with them for success.
- ✦ *Celebrating successes.* Make a big deal out of accomplishments - no matter how big or small.
- ✦ *Being mindful of your child's triggers.* You may not know all of your child's triggers - and that's okay. If your child starts having an issue, there may be something that is triggering it. For example, they may have had a past traumatic experience with an adult male and may not be comfortable with someone you take for granted, such as a male bus driver, guidance counselor, or principal.
- ✦ *Transitioning.* Transitions are often closely related to triggers. The start of a school year, holidays, and the end of a school year are all transition times and can be a bit of a struggle for your child.
- ✦ *Scheduling appointments after school whenever possible.* This helps to prevent disruptions to your child's regular day and may reduce unwanted questions about why James misses gym each Tuesday.
- ✦ *Planning for school routines before school starts.* A few weeks before school starts, begin regular bedtimes, meals, and after school routines. For children who come into your home during the school year, get them into a routine a few days before they start school.
- ✦ *Advocating for children in care.* As a foster parent, you know the needs of the child in your care. The child's parents also provide additional insights that can be beneficial to share with the school staff. It's okay to advocate for what your child needs to be successful in school.

Homework

Designating a homework space and time can help your child stay in a routine and keep a consistent schedule. Some children in care seem to struggle with school work. This may be because of a lack of attendance at school, early trauma, frequent moves, or any number of other reasons. Following are some suggestions to try to help with homework.

- ✦ *Break homework into smaller steps.* Sometimes breaking things into smaller steps alleviates stress and anxiety, and keeps students better focused. For example, instead of having your child work on 20 math problems, have him work on five at a time.
- ✦ *Remember where your child is at developmentally.* Your child may not be working at the same level as other kids his age. Your child is unique, and may learn in a more non-traditional way.
- ✦ *Develop realistic expectations and celebrate accomplishments.* Meet your child where he is and celebrate his accomplishments.



- ✦ *Teach organizational skills.* Develop a system for school work going back and forth between home and school. For example, use different colored folders and notebooks for different classes or subjects.
- ✦ *Consider a mentor or a tutor.* A lot of schools have older children who assist younger children with school work. Perhaps your child could be involved with organizations, like the YMCA or Big Brothers and Big Sisters, that provide mentors. Also check with people at your school to see if they can recommend a tutor if needed.
- ✦ *Try to keep in mind that some assignments may be emotionally taxing.* Assignments about family trees, Child of the Week, holidays, Mother's Day, and Father's Day are just a few that may be triggers for your child.

School can be a wonderful experience for your child. He may build healthy connections to teachers, coaches, counselors, and other staff members. Friends and learning social skills are also a good emotional support for him.

But school is sometimes one of the biggest stressors for children and parents alike. Don't hesitate to call us at 1-800-947-8074 for support, understanding, and resources.

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<http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org>

Thank You, Silly Willyz and The Purple Giraffe!!



Thank you to Silly Willyz (located at 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., #1H, Village of Pewaukee, WI 53072) and Purple Giraffe (located at 183 E. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066) for your generous support by leading a toy drive to benefit the children in Waukesha County!!

It is with great excitement that the WCDHHS - Foster Care Team extends a heart-filled "Thank You!" With your support, generosity, caring, and sharing, we will be able to give smiles to the children in our community.

Your donations will go a long way! Here are just a few ways the children will benefit:

- ♥ The toys will lend a sense of security and comfort to a child in times of transition to a new home, which oftentimes is a difficult period for youth.
- ♥ Children will be able to play with the toys during supervised visits.
- ♥ Gifts to children for Christmas/birthdays.
- ♥ Raffle prizes for future foster care events.

Please know that each and every one of the toys will be put to great use, and bring such joy to the children. Again, thank you for all the smiles and happiness these toys will bring, and for supporting WCDHHS's mission and goals.

Upcoming Foster, Adoptive, Relative Parent FOUNDATION Trainings

Location:

Olympia Resort, 1350 Royale Mile Rd, Oconomowoc, WI

Foster Parent Foundation Module 1: Partners in Permanency

This workshop introduces the parent or caregiver to the primary goals of child protective services and how these services can help achieve protection and permanence for children and their families. The parent or caregiver is introduced into his or her role as a member of the team and how collaboration with caseworkers, the child protection agency and other professionals is imperative to serving the child, birth family and foster parent. The importance of advocacy for the child is also emphasized as the best interest of the child needs to be considered during case planning, with schools and other service agencies/providers.

August 13, 9:00am-12:00pm 6830

Online registration closed –contact
mcwp@uwm.edu

Foster Parent Foundation Module 4a: Dynamics of Abuse and Neglect Part 1

This workshop familiarizes the parent or caregiver with the dynamics of physical and sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment and neglect, as well as the physical and behavioral indicators in children. Parents or caregivers also become familiar with the types of family situations that can contribute to abuse and neglect. Laws regarding mandatory reporting of suspected abuse and neglect are also examined.

September 17, 9:00am-12:00pm 6834

Foster Parent Foundation Module 6: Attachment

This workshop demonstrates normal, healthy attachment and how it influences child development. Parents/caregivers are introduced to how attachment is the foundation for guidance and positive discipline, and how it is impacted by separation from primary parents, siblings and other attachment figures. Participants also learn to identify stages in the grieving process as well as strategies to reduce the trauma to children who have experienced separations from significant others.

October 1, 9:00am-12:00pm 6836

Foster Parent Foundation Module 2: Cultural Dynamics in Placement

This workshop presents an overview of culture and the ways in which our values and codes of conduct are impacted by culture. Participants learn to separate culture from race and learn to identify the many and complex ingredients of cultural identity. Caregivers also will learn methods to more successfully parent a child from a different culture.

August 13, 12:30pm-3:30pm 6831

Online registration closed –contact
mcwp@uwm.edu

Foster Parent Foundation Module 4b: Dynamics of Abuse and Neglect Part 2

This workshop familiarizes the parent or caregiver with the dynamics of physical and sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment and neglect, as well as the physical and behavioral indicators in children. Parents or caregivers also become familiar with the types of family situations that can contribute to abuse and neglect. Laws regarding mandatory reporting of suspected abuse and neglect are also examined.

September 17, 12:30pm-3:30pm 6835

Foster Parent Foundation Module 7: Separation and Placement

This module examines the effects of separation on the child within their cultural context. Participants also learn to identify stages in the grieving process as well as strategies to reduce the trauma to children who have experienced separations from significant others. In addition, the course also examines issues related to emotional conflict and the impact of multiple placements on the child.

October 1, 12:30pm-3:30pm 6837

Foster Parent Foundation Module 9: Effects of Fostering on the Family

This workshop examines the impact of foster care, adoption, and kinship care on the family system. Information is presented on disclosure of important information to foster and adoptive parents and protocols for handling challenges specific to foster care. The workshop enables prospective parents to develop effective coping strategies and survival plans.

October 15, 12:30pm-3:30pm 6839

Foster Parent Foundation Module 3: Maintaining Family Connectedness

This workshop provides information about the losses experienced by birth families, expected behaviors of grieving birth parents and ways to work effectively with birth families along a continuum of contacts. Parents or caregivers also learn how to identify key members of the child's birth family and the significance of sibling connections.

September 10, 9:00am-12:00pm 6832

Foster Parent Foundation Module 5: Impact of Maltreatment on Child Development

This workshop describes the impact of maltreatment on a child's development, including outlining typical child development in the five developmental domains, as well as developmental delays that are associated with the different forms of abuse and neglect. Parents or caregivers will learn about resources to address developmental delays. In addition, parents or caregivers will understand that children will experience differing degrees of traumatization due to their resiliency factors, and will also need to learn life skills differently due to their abuse histories.

September 10, 12:30pm-3:30pm 6833

Foster Parent Foundation Module 8: Guidance and Positive Discipline

This workshop examines the reasons for behavioral problems in foster and adopted children. The workshop also explains the agency policy regarding corporal punishment and the underlying reasons for that policy. Finally, participants receive information on positive ways to manage behavior, including natural and logical consequences, contracting and rewards.

October 15, 9:00am-12:00pm 6838

For more locations go to: pdsonline.csod.com or MCWP website: www.uwm.edu/mcwp

For assistance: call 414-964-7400 or email mcwp@uwm.edu

Update 8/2/16



Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership
Dedicated to professional development



Helen Bader School of Social Welfare

Resource Family Recognition Event

We would like to thank all of the caregivers who attended the Resource Family Recognition Event!

It was a hot and humid day, so we had lots of ice cold water ready for all. 80 caregivers and children attended the picnic, and luckily, the rain held out until late afternoon. We were able to provide lunch, carnival games, face painting, tie dye shirts, and raffle prizes for our families. Here are some pictures of the event!



Training Requirements for Foster Parents

Here is a friendly reminder that all of our foster parents must be up-to-date on their training requirements at the time of re-licensure. Level 1 and Level 2 foster parents have different requirements, so if you are unsure of your level of license, please contact your foster care coordinator. A Level 2 license requires that all Foundations Modules be completed within the first two years of licensure. These modules are only offered twice a year, so it is very important that you don't wait until the last minute. You must sign up for these modules in PDS. You can sign up by going online to: pdsonline.csod.com. If you need assistance, you can contact PDS by email to: mcwp@uwm.edu or by calling 414-964-7400. The insert of the newsletter is the latest offerings of the Foundation Modules for easy reference.

If you are having difficulties getting into PDS, it could be because you did not complete the updated self-registration last fall when an e-mail was sent to you. If you can't get into PDS, please try completing this self-registration survey: https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cBDV7QJuiMcfkyh

Also, below is a reminder of the training requirements by level:

Level 1:

- ✦ 6 hours of Pre-Placement Training

Level 2:

- ✦ 6 hours of Pre-Placement Training
- ✦ 30 hours of Initial Licensing Training
- ✦ 10 hours of Ongoing Training in each 12-month licensing period

Future Foster Parent Training Dates and Topics

Center for Excellence

N4W22000 Bluemound Road, Waukesha
A light dinner and daycare will be provided.

Prudent Parenting

For this training only, please RSVP to:
<https://prudentparentingwithdaycare.eventbrite.com>
September 15, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Safe Sleep Practices for Young Children

October 20, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm

CANS - What Is It? What Does It Mean? Learn More About The CANS Assessment Tool

November 17, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Foster Parent Panel Discussion

December 15, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm

RSVP at any time for all future monthly trainings at:
<http://waukeshafostercaretraining.eventbrite.com>

If it is a Waukesha County organized training, you will always be able to use this link moving forward.



Training and Events



Training Offered By Waukesha County

Parent Café

Parent Café's are an educational opportunity for parents to come together and deal with the stressors, worries and challenges of parenting in a supportive environment.

October 4, December 6, 2016

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Center for Excellence

N4W22000 Bluemound Road, Waukesha
To register for childcare, RSVP or for questions call, 262-521-0317.

Support Group For Dads

This is a new group to enhance group members' experience as fathers. Topics of discussion will include coping with stress; developing a better relationship with partner/spouse/child's mother; identifying positive role models in your life; identifying how you are a positive role model for your child(ren); discussing your role as a father and what you would like to change or improve.

Fourth Tuesday of each month

September 27, 2016

October 25, 2016

6:00PM - 7:30PM

Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI
262-549-5575

Foster Parent Support Group

First Wednesday of each month

September 7, 2016

October 5, 2016

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI
262-549-5575

On-sight daycare is available, but you must register in advance to secure a slot as there may be a cut-off depending on the number of children.

An Unhaunted Halloween Event

Howl-O-Ween

Retzer Nature Center

S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha

Friday, October 14, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

\$15 per car load, covers all activities

Guided hikes, DJ Dance, crafts, games, planetarium shows, and more!

Trick or Treat Dates and Times

For local listings, please go to <http://www.hauntedwisconsin.com/things-to-do/kids-family/trick-or-treat/>

Waukesha County Foster Parent Orientation

Waukesha Department of Health and Human Services invites you to attend a foster parent orientation meeting. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested in learning about our foster care program. **If you are currently in the process of becoming a licensed foster parent, you are required to attend an orientation session prior to approval of your foster care license.**

We encourage you to complete the online foster parent pre-placement training prior to attending this information session. The training can be found online at <http://wcpwps.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training/>. Please save the certificates after you have completed each module. These are required to become licensed.

When:

Second Tuesday of each month

September 13, 2016

October 11, 2016

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Where: Human Services Center, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI 53188

To register for an orientation session, contact your foster care coordinator.



Training

Parents Place Programs

262-549-5575 www.ppacinc.org

- **Parenting Through Recovery (4-week series)**
Wednesdays, September 7 - 28; 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **Parenting Through Recovery (4-week series)**
Wednesdays, October 19 & 26, November 2 & 9; 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **Strong Willed Child**
Mondays, September 19 & 26; 5:30 - 7:30 PM
- **Picking Up The Pieces After Loss**
Wednesday, September 21; 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **Love and Logic®**
Mondays, October 10 - 24; 5:30 - 7:30 PM
- **Giving Children the Gift of Self-Esteem (Parent and Child Class)**
Wednesday, October 5; 5:30 - 7:30 PM
- **Big Emotions - Meltdowns and Tantrums**
Tuesday, October 25 - 20; 5:30-7:00 PM

Coalition for Children

www.coalitionforcyf.org

For other training opportunities, see the Coalition for Children, Youth & Families website: www.coalitionforcyf.org. They offer interactive webinars that count toward the required face to face training hours.



Contact Numbers:

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
262-548-7212

Vickie Smith, Foster Care
Licensing Supervisor
262-970-4761

Susan Peck, Foster Care Level 2
Coordinator
262-896-8574

Libby Sinclair, Relative Foster
Care Level 1 Coordinator
262-548-7277

Megan Quandt, Kinship & Foster
Care Coordinator
262-548-7373

Jessica Morris, Kinship & Foster
Care Coordinator
262-548-7256

Eve Altizer, Ongoing Social Work
Supervisor
262-548-7272

Rebecca Hollister, Ongoing Social
Work Supervisor
262-548-7271

Social Workers:

Tracy Clark.....262-548-7270

Megan Fishler262-896-8570

Abbey Girman262-548-7695

Sharon Godard.....262-548-7684

Danita Graham262-548-7341

Laura Jahnke.....262-548-7359

Jamie Kasten.....262-548-7265

Jessica Larsen262-548-7346

Maria Maurer262-548-7345

Chelsey Nisbet.....262-896-6896

Rachel O'Sullivan.....262-548-7639

Stacy Pawlak262-548-7262

Elizabeth Russo262-548-7349

Kim Sampson.....262-548-7273

Linda Senger262-548-7698

Traci Sobstad.....262-896-6857

Sara Waldron.....262-548-7371

Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7666

Medical Emergency: 911

Family Emergency: 211 or

262-547-3388

Foster Parent Mentors

David & Jen Mersfelder

262-542-2926

If an Allegation of Abuse or
Neglect has been made
against you, please call:

FASPP

Norma Schoenberg
920-922-9627