



Resource Family Connection

News, Events, and Information Benefiting
the Children of Waukesha County
November and December, 2019



Celebrating Holidays with Children You Foster

By: Adoption Resources of Wisconsin, Inc.

Conflicting loyalties and lost dreams often make the holidays a difficult time for children in foster care. Just as studies show that holidays are stressful times for most of us, these reactions are compounded for youth placed in your home. Here are some suggestions for managing the holidays.

How can my family make it easier for the children in foster care while they are in our home?

- ✧ Talk about the season ahead of time. Talk about how your family celebrates the holidays. Tell children which of the traditional holidays your house recognizes. Is it Thanksgiving? St. Nick's Day? Kwanzaa? Hanukkah? Christmas? New Year? Or all of the above? Talking about the holidays gives children time to anticipate the upcoming activities and ask questions.
- ✧ Help children in foster care imagine what to expect in your home. Much of what we assume to be commonplace can be new to the children you foster.
- ✧ Share the religious meanings the holidays may have for your family. Talk about your family's specific customs and activities.
- ✧ Use this time of sharing to learn especially about the religious beliefs, customs, and activities of the children you foster.
- ✧ Try to incorporate at least some of their traditions into your traditions.
- ✧ Some parents try to keep the holidays low key in order to help minimize some of the stress.

How can we work with birth families during the holidays?

- ✧ Again, ask children about their experiences and try to incorporate some of their traditions. The children placed in your home may miss some activities that they experienced with their family or in a previous placement.
- ✧ If possible, ask your child's family members about their holiday traditions and customs. Ask about their beliefs and observances. Although you may feel stretched at the holidays, try to coordinate schedules with the birth families. This gives the children a chance to share what is familiar while experiencing new traditions.
- ✧ This is a good time for the youth in your home to make small gifts and send cards to their birth families or old neighbors and friends.
- ✧ This is a time when many children feel conflicted feelings about their birth families and worry about them. It is a good time to let the young person know that it is okay for them to be safe and cared for even if their family struggles. Reassure them if you can, about the safety and care of their birth family.

What are some of the ways I can help the children who I foster get through the holidays? What are some signs of grief or sadness that I can look for?

- ✧ Be prepared for the sadness and grief. Talk about your child's feelings throughout the season.

- ✧ Give your children time and space to grieve. Grief takes many forms and may be exhibited in lots of ways, including:
 1. Reverting back to younger behaviors developmentally
 2. Soiling themselves or bedwetting
 3. Becoming withdrawn and isolated
 4. Having temper tantrums
 5. Being rebellious
 6. Complaining more than usual
- ✧ Try to remember the developmental age of the children you foster. It will also help you to stay patient if you keep in mind the challenges of the season for your child before you react.

What are some things we can do to make family get-togethers easier?

- ✧ Talk about upcoming events and the people who will be there. If you cannot get together before the big event, introduce your children to family and friends who will be at the celebration by going through pictures.
- ✧ Prepare them for the "characters" in your family and also tell them about other children who might be there.
- ✧ Tell them if your celebrations are quiet or loud, sacred or silly, big or small.
- ✧ Describe the home or place where the event will be held, and tell how it usually proceeds.
- ✧ Be realistic about it - do not make your celebrations seem perfect, but do not stress the challenges that are part of all family events.
- ✧ Give your children a camera so that they can record the celebration, and also give them one for holiday visits with their birth families.

What can I do to help my children learn what is expected of them at family celebrations?

- ✧ This is an opportunity to teach the behaviors and manners that you would like the youth you foster to learn. Go over basic manners such as "please" and "thank you."
- ✧ Explain the expectations of children prior to family get-togethers and practice those behaviors ahead of time.
- ✧ Use role playing at home so that they can practice.
- ✧ Make sure you and your family / friends are on the same page regarding gifts from and to your children. Perhaps try to have your child bring a small hostess gift to the get together: baked goods, nuts, candles, ornament, etc.
- ✧ Tell family and friends about your children, and try to introduce them before the holidays. It's a good time to remind others about the confidentiality you honor concerning the children you foster, and it might be a good time to practice some polite but firm answers to some questions.
- ✧ Remember especially to ask your children what they would like to have shared about themselves.



Brad and Nick Schlaikowski



When Brad and Nick met, Brad had 3 boys from a previous marriage. They had both dreamed of having a little girl to add to their family. They didn't have funds for surrogacy or adoption, so Brad decided to look into foster care. They went to an informational meeting, not knowing if gay couples could foster, and were pleasantly greeted by brochures featuring LGBTQ+ couples. Their daughter came to them soon after, and Brad and Nick adopted her a year later! While still fostering their daughter, they had room in their home to take female teenagers. It was their stories that drove the idea and passion behind Schlaikowskis' non-profit, Courage MKE. Courage MKE has now opened the first ever home for displaced LGBTQ+ youth in the state of Wisconsin!

The Waukesha County Foster Care Program and staff would like to recognize the Schlaikowski family for their support and commitment! You are truly amazing!

Wisconsin Real ID: What You Need To Know Before Deadline By: Scott Anderson, Patch Staff

Wisconsinites have a little more than a year to get their verified REAL ID driver's license before new federal air travel rules go into effect. A REAL ID or other identification such as a passport will be required to board an airplane come October 1, 2020.

They are optional and are not needed to drive or vote. But in addition to needing it for a domestic flight, you'll need the REAL ID to enter a federal building or military installation if you don't have a passport or military ID card.

What It Means In Wisconsin

- ✿ If it's time to renew your driver's license or ID, you can upgrade to a REAL ID-compliant card for no additional fee (if the upgrade takes place at the same time as your renewal).
- ✿ If your current driver's license or ID will not expire before 2020, and you wish to obtain a REAL ID-compliant card, the cost of a duplicate card will apply.
- ✿ Wisconsin offers both REAL ID-compliant and non-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards. The cards look similar; REAL ID-compliant are marked with a star, while non-compliant cards are marked "NOT FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES." Should you choose to continue to hold a non-compliant card, you will need another form of identification to board a plane or access federal sites.
- ✿ If you have a valid U.S. passport or another acceptable form of federal identification, you can use that for identification, in place of a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card.

The REAL ID Act was passed after the September 11 terrorist attacks to establish minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. REAL ID driver's licenses and state identification cards have a gold star in the top right corner to indicate they comply with federal rules.

To obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card in Wisconsin, applicants must present additional documentation when you apply. The document categories include:

- ✿ Proof of Name and Date of Birth
- ✿ Proof of Legal Presence in the U.S.
- ✿ Proof of Identity
- ✿ Proof of Name Change
- ✿ Proof of Social Security Number
- ✿ Proof of Address

Great American Smoke Out



The Great American Smoke Out on November 21, is a recognized event to help support smoking cessation, and make others aware of tobacco user risks.

Approximately 40 million adults still smoke, and it remains the single largest PREVENTABLE cause of disease in our country. Using tobacco products can lead to increased risk of

cancer, heart attack, stroke, and bronchitis. The high monetary cost of smoking has convinced many smokers to quit, and led to legislation on smoke-free workplaces and communities.

However, currently, another public health crisis is developing, related to another "smoking" product. The electronic cigarette and "vaping" industry currently generates an estimate 2.6 billion dollars annually - with estimated 18 billion dollars by 2024 in a poorly regulated business. These products are primarily marketed to the young, with fruit and candy flavored ads - these products account for more than 85% of their sales. The developing brain at these young ages are particularly vulnerable to the rewarding effects of nicotine that it contains. These e-cigarettes also delivery higher amounts of nicotine than cigarettes, so no surprise that use has increased by 75% in our high school student population.

Numerous reports of safety risks posed by these electronic delivery systems and products - accidental poisoning by ingestion, burns, fires, and explosions - have all been documented and warnings made.

More recently, news of serious respiratory illness in previously young, healthy individuals is forcing everyone to look even more carefully at this public health problem. There have been 6 deaths in recent months linked to vaping. Chemicals that are used in the flavorings additives are looking at a likely culprit in some of these illnesses. In addition, those that use cannabis products, and CBD oils in vaping, may be exposing their lungs to bits of waxy outer lipid layer from the plants that is not burned away during vaping at lower temperatures. Harsh chemicals such as propylene glycol (PG) and polyethylene glycol (PEG), which have been shown to induce allergies and respiratory complications, are also used in the dilution of the products for efficiency in vaping delivery.

At this time, it is recommended that people discontinue using these products. More studies need to be done on the risks of these products for all ages, but certainly the very real possibility of long term health consequences are related to traditional tobacco products, as well as these newer products that were initially marketed as a "safer" alternative to smoking.

Be A Ready Kid!

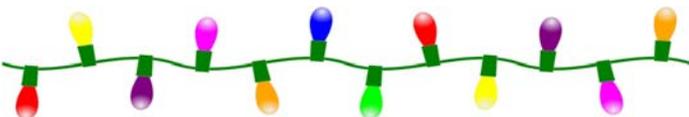
Emergencies and disasters can be scary, but there are ways to help you stay safe before, during, and even after a disaster. Here, you can play games to become a Disaster Master, and learn how to build an emergency kit. You will meet our friend Pedro the Penguin, who will teach you all about staying safe. You will even be able to make your own emergency plan with your family! <https://www.ready.gov/kids/kids>

Kid Free Night Out for Parents YMCA of Greater Waukesha County

Need a night out, but don't know what to do with your kids? Let the Y help! A night of fun in our facility awaits your children while you are enjoying yourself - kid free! Children will participate in a variety of age appropriate activities. Dinner will be provided. Please register in advance.

\$10/member; \$15/non-member

Check out <http://www.gwcymca.org/Youth-Nights> for additional information including locations, dates, and times!



Christmas Events

- ❄️ **Midnight Magic**
Where: Mukwonago
When: Saturday, December 7; 10:00 AM - 11:55 PM
Magic fills the air in Mukwonago with old and new Christmas Traditions. There will be a town-wide festival featuring an indoor crafter marketplace with over 130 vendors, located at Mukwonago High School. There will also be shopping, a parade, fireworks, pictures with Santa (and Santa's special train), holiday entertainment, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more!
<https://lakecountryfamilyfun.com/event/midnight-magic-mukwonago/>

Events with Santa

- ❄️ **Cookies and Cocoa with Santa**
Where: Merton Fire Department, N67W28343 Sussex Rd, Merton
When: Saturday, December 1; 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Please join the Merton Community Fire Department for a FREE family event. There will be complimentary cookies, cocoa, and crafts for the kids. Along with lots of festive cheer, as well as a special visit from Santa Claus himself!
<https://lakecountryfamilyfun.com/event/cookies-cocoa-santa-free-community-event/>
- ❄️ **Breakfast with the Reindeer**
Where: Delafield Fish Hatchery, 417 Main St, Delafield
When: Saturday, December 7; 8:00 AM - Noon (Santa and his reindeer leave promptly at noon)
Kids will love meeting Santa's amazing flying friends, and parents can enjoy the wonder on their children's faces as they greet real, live reindeer (Blitzen was in Delafield last year!). Bring your camera to photograph loved ones with Santa, live reindeer, and a magical elf!
<https://lakecountryfamilyfun.com/breakfast-with-the-reindeer-in-delafield-2/>
- ❄️ **Breakfast and Lunch with Santa**
Where: Milwaukee County Zoo
When: Saturday/Sunday, December 7-8, 14-15, 21-22
It's the most wonderful time of the year! Enjoy the holiday cheer and spend time having breakfast or lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Breakfast and lunch served both days; advanced reservations required.
<http://www.milwaukeezoo.org/events/>
- ❄️ **Breakfast with Santa**
Where: YMCA of Greater Waukesha County
When: Saturday, December 14; 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Have you seen Santa yet to tell him what's on your Christmas list? If not, you still have time! Santa wants you and your family to join him for a breakfast, pictures with Santa, crafts, games, and more!
To register, visit the site below.
https://www.qwcymca.org/ymca_sessions/495757.htm



Sledding Hills

Waukesha County Park System sledding hills are open when snow cover permits. Our sledding hills are perfect for winter enthusiasts of all ages! Sleds, tubes, and snowboards allowed on the designated sledding hill.

Entrance fee to County Parks is \$5/carload.

- ❄️ **Menomonee Park - Menomonee Falls**
Parking: Archery Lot
- ❄️ **Minooka Park - Waukesha**
Parking: Picnic Area #4
- ❄️ **Mukwonago Park - Mukwonago**
Parking: East end of Picnic Area #4
- ❄️ **Nashotah Park - Nashotah**
Parking: Picnic Area #2



For more information and to check on snow conditions, go to <https://www.waukesha.gov/landandparks/park-system/winter-activities/sleddinghills/>

Christmas Parades

- ❄️ **Waukesha:** Sunday, November 24; 4:00 - 6:00 PM
<https://www.waukeshaworks.com/2019-christmas-parade.html>
- ❄️ **Menomonee Falls:** Sunday, December 1; 4:30 - 6:30 PM
https://www.facebook.com/events/326962157987100/?active_tab=about
- ❄️ **Mukwonago:** Saturday, December 7; 3:00 PM
<https://lakecountryfamilyfun.com/event/midnight-magic-mukwonago/>

Activities

- ❄️ **Thanksgiving Story Time and Activities**
Where: Waukesha Public Library, Children's Program Room, 321 Wisconsin Ave, Waukesha
When: Tuesday, November 26; 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
The entire family is invited to join us for Thanksgiving stories, songs, and craft activities. No registration required.
- ❄️ **Gingerbread Houses**
Where: Waukesha Public Library, Children's Program Room, 321 Wisconsin Ave, Waukesha
When: Monday, December 9; 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM ~OR~ 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
We've changed the format of this popular program to make it easier for more people to attend. Families with children of all ages are invited to drop-in anytime during the time frames above to make a gingerbread house and listen to holiday music and stories. All supplies provided. No registration required. For families with children of all ages.
- ❄️ **Free Days at the Milwaukee County Zoo**
Where: Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee
When: Saturdays, November 2 and December 7; 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Bring the whole family - and your friends - to the Zoo on Family Free Days. Everyone gets free admission! Milwaukee County Zoo parking fee still applies; Zoo Pass Plus members receive free parking. <http://www.milwaukeezoo.org/events/familyfreedays.php>

Waukesha County Foster Care Breakfast with Santa

When: Saturday, December 14; 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Waukesha County foster parents, relative caregivers, and Kinship families are invited! Join us for a breakfast with Santa, gather your reindeer food for the big night, and make a Christmas craft. Don't forget to bring your camera along!

Craft Time! Thumbprint Lightbulb Frame

By: thatsthatchesaid.com

These are quick and inexpensive gifts that you can give family and friends that are still personal for the holidays!

What You'll Need:

- ❄️ Frame with white mat border (author got hers at Wal-Mart for \$2 each. Make sure there is plenty of room for lots of lights!)
- ❄️ Colored ink pads
- ❄️ Fine-tip Sharpie
- ❄️ THUMBS!



What You'll Do:

1. Disassemble the frame and give the kids the mats and ink pads. You may want to steer them in the direction of where-ish they should make their thumb prints.
2. You draw on the bulb stems and "string" them together with the Sharpie!
3. Reassemble the frame with the photo.



Additional Training and Events



Foster Care Information Sessions

Foster Care Information Sessions are open to anyone interested in learning about foster care in our community. **All prospective foster parents are required to attend orientation prior to the approval of your foster care license.** You will have the opportunity to learn more about our foster care program and the children we serve.

WHEN: November 7, November 12, and December 10, 2019

TIME: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

WHERE: Waukesha County Human Services, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI

RSVP is requested, but not required to fostercare@waukeshacounty.gov or 262-548-7373.

Foster Parent Networking Night (Formerly Foster Parent Support Group)

Come join fellow foster parents for an evening of building connections while enjoying a meal.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 13, 2019

TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

WHERE: Waukesha County Human Services, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI

Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Please RSVP by November 6 at <https://fosterparentnetworking.eventbrite.com>.

On-going Trainings

WHEN: See below

TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

WHERE: Waukesha County Human Services, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI

All of the on-going trainings are open to foster parents, as well as relative caregivers. A light dinner and daycare will be provided.

You must register the number of adults attending, as well as the number of children for child care, for each individual session at:

<http://waukeshafostercaretraining.eventbrite.com>

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training

November 21, 2019

Presented by: NAMI Waukesha

This training will educate community members about myths of suicide and how to get a person at risk of suicide the help they need. Individuals will learn three simple steps needed to know to help prevent suicide.

No Training in December

NAMI Parent Peer Support Group

For parents and caregivers who have a child under the age of 18 affected by a mental health condition.

WHEN: Wednesdays, November 6, November 20, December 4, and December 18, 2019

TIME: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WHERE: NAMI Waukesha, 217 Wisconsin Ave, Ste 300, Waukesha, WI (Parking in rear)

PHONE: 262-524-8886



Parents Place Classes

All classes are held at Parents Place: 1570 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha, WI

For more information or to register, please call 262-549-5575.

Dealing with Tantrums: Learn new strategies and techniques in dealing with these everyday struggles. Gain an understanding of how you can influence your child's emotional development. Come join us for this informative workshop.

WHEN: Monday, November 4, 2019

TIME: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Coping with Stress: Being a parent is a challenging job. There seems to be so much expected of you. When parents are under stress, they are likely less likely to be calm and consistent with their children. Learn how to develop a coping plan for any stressful situation. This will include coping statements, relation strategies, and positive parenting strategies.

WHEN: Monday, December 2, 2019

TIME: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Playgroup: A free on-going group for parents, grandparents, primary caregivers, and children.

WHEN: Every Wednesday

TIME: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Contact Numbers:

Foster Care

Social Workers:

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
262-548-7212

Michelle Lim, Foster Care
Supervisor
262-970-4761

Cassie BeLow, Foster Care
Coordinator
262-896-8574

Jennifer Mantei, Foster Care
Coordinator
262-548-7250

Libby Sinclair, Kinship Care
Coordinator
262-548-7277

Hilary Smith, Foster Care
Coordinator
262-548-7254

Case Management

Social Workers:

Angie Sadler, Ongoing Social Work
Supervisor
262-548-7272

Eric Calvino, Ongoing Social Work
Supervisor
262-548-7271

Nicole Allende..... 262-548-7265

Kimberly Dudzik 262-548-7347

Megan Fishler 262-896-8570

Abbey Girman 262-548-7695

Sharon Godwin 262-548-7684

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

Alyssa Jones 262-548-7239

Jessica Larsen 262-548-7346

Maria Maurer 262-548-7345

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

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

Johanna Ploeger 262-896-6857

Elizabeth Russo 262-548-7349

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

Linda Senger 262-548-7698

Brittany Sutton..... 262-548-7262

Jamie West 262-548-7264

Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7666

Medical Emergency: 911
Family Emergency: 211 or
262-547-3388

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

FASPP
Norma Schoenberg
920-922-9627

