



Resource Family Connection

News, Events and Information Benefiting
the Children of Waukesha County

January 2013



Resource Families

By: Kathy Mullooly

New Year, New Look, New Name!

You may have noticed that we have a new name for our newsletter. Beginning this year, Waukesha County Health and Human Services will be now referring to all of our homes that care for children as **Resource Families**. The State of Wisconsin has been using this term as an "umbrella" when describing the various types of caregivers who provide care to children who must live away from their parents. This care can be through relative care, licensed foster care, or adoptive or guardianship families.

Whether you are caring for your niece, nephew, grandchild, or a child who is not related to you, there is a commonality amongst all

Resource Families. It can be a struggle to care for another person's child. It is Waukesha County's mission to ensure that we do all that we can to provide every Resource Family with helpful and educational information regarding parenting, child behaviors, community programs, available trainings, and events to help support you.

As a county, we know that you are one of our greatest resources for our families that are struggling with a variety of issues that affect their parenting. We want to pool our efforts to provide you with the support you need. While continuing to meet the unique needs of each type of providers, we want to be more inclusive to all of those who working to keep our children safe.

Training and Events

Training Offered By Waukesha County

Parent Café

January 22, 2013

5:30 PM

Center for Excellence

N4W22000 Bluemound Road

Waukesha

To register for childcare, RSVP or for questions call, 262-548-8080.



Waukesha County Foster Parent Required Pre-Placement Training

Prospective Foster Parents need to do Part 1 of the training on the following website: <http://www.wcwts.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training> (Please bring your training certificates to the class)

We will then meet to discuss the learning points and answer your questions.

January 7, 2013

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Waukesha County Human Services

500 Riverview Ave.

Brookfield Room G137

Enter Door 6.

Call Shari Rather to register at 262-548-7267.

Relative Caregivers Support/Education Group

Third Tuesday of each month.

January 15, 2013

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI

262-549-5575

Free childcare available. Please call Parents Place to reserve your spot.

Waukesha County Relative Resource Families

Please RSVP to Janis (262-896-8069) or Libby (262-548-7277)

Trauma Informed Parenting

For Waukesha County Resource Families

Sponsored by the Southern Partnership

Presented by Kathy Mullooly and Bob Alioto

2013 dates coming soon

All classes are in the Brookfield Room at Waukesha County Human Services. Enter Door 6.

Please park in the back employee parking lot.

All classes are from 5:30 to 8:30 PM.

Call Shari Rather to register at 262-548-7267.

Training

Parents Place Programs

262-549-5575

www.ppacinc.org

Calming the Explosive Volcano

Mondays, January 7 - 21

5:30 - 7:30 PM

New Ideas for Parenting Children and Adolescents with ADHD/ADD

Mondays, January 14 - 28

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Love and Logic

Tuesday, February 5 - February 26

5:30 - 7:30 PM

ARW Adoption Resources of Wisconsin

800-762-8063

Introduction to Life Books

February 12, 2013

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Register online at: <http://lifebooks.eventbrite.com>

Life Book Workshop

February 23, 2013

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Register online at: <http://lifebookworkshop.eventbrite.com>



Lisa's Corner

Lisa Roberts
Child & Family Services
Division Manager

Dear Foster Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a very blessed, safe and happy holiday season. Can you believe it is 2013 already? It's just amazing to me how year after year time seems to go by faster and faster. I always think the new year is a great time to reflect back on the year prior – consider accomplishments as well as “lessons learned” and set some new goals and priorities to give direction to the year ahead. In looking back at Waukesha County Child Protective Services in 2012, there were lots of things to consider... our on-going child-welfare/child-protection units worked with 85 NEW families and 141 total families including 351 kids overall. That included approximately 216 kids who remained in-home but at a high risk of being removed and approximately 135 kids in out of home care. We licensed 26 new level one (relative) foster homes this year and 26 new level two foster homes. We have always been a county blessed to have people like all of you, willing to step up and support our children in need. Thank you!

We all know all too well that the struggles of the families we serve continue to get more significant, complex and severe every year – from economic challenges, to the difficult impact of mental health and trauma, battles with addiction and much, much more. All of you, along with our workers and our community partners fight hard for these families – cheerleading them through the change process, supporting them through the ups and downs and advocating for services for them. We do all of this so that ultimately the kids we all love and care so deeply about can have healthy, safe and permanent homes where they can grow and thrive until they reach adulthood. As a result of all the hard work, shared parenting, teaming, coordinating and collaborating, we were able to successfully reunify 27 children with their parent(s) and facilitate 13 guardianships so kids could have permanent, safe homes with a relative. We also completed 7 terminations of parental rights in 2012 so those children could be freed for adoption. Great work everyone!

There's a lot of remarkable work happening but always so much more to do! As we look ahead with anticipation and hope for 2013 I encourage all of you to make a commitment to do at least two things: reach out and get involved at a deeper level. We live in a busy, chaotic time where although people can be contacted in a multitude of different ways (cell phone, Facebook, email, text, etc.) at any give time, we remain dismally disconnected. There is a lot of heartache, pain, loneliness and despair in the world today. People need each other – we need to be connected – emotionally, physically and spiritually – so that we can all be healthy and safe. We never know what impact a small act of kindness can have – and if it helps prevent just one tragedy then think of the many, many lives that would be affected. Secondly, given the number of heartbreaking and traumatic events that have happened around us, make it a point to learn more about trauma and its impact and effects. Not only have the children you help take care of been affected by trauma in their lives, so likely have their parents, as well as others we all love and care about. The more we know and understand about “what's happened to people” versus “what's wrong with people”, the better equipped we will be to have a positive impact on their recovery. This department is committed to providing you with the information, trainings, support and guidance you need to be able to do that. I look forward to continuing the exceptional work and collaboration here in Waukesha County. I can't wait to see where our work together will take us over this next year and what wonderful things we will accomplish. Blessing to all of you for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013!

Lisa

Establishing Household Rules

By: Adoption Resources of Wisconsin - ARW/FCARC

The social worker has just called and asked for placement today! The child will soon be here! Your mind is filled with a whirlwind of questions! What will the child be like? What has she gone through? What will she expect? What rules is she used to?

Not only do you have plenty of questions but, upon entering care, children also have many questions about your family and how it works.

By talking over house rules, the children in your home will know what you expect from them, and also what they may expect from you. Families in foster care and adoption can succeed if they know what to expect.

The Initial Meeting

When first meeting with the caseworker, child, child's parent(s) and previous caretaker, discuss the special needs, strengths, and culture of that child. Talk with the team about the success of previous limits and rules. Were these useful in allowing the youth and others to be safe and did the child learn from these guidelines? Are there suggestions from the team for creating specific rules based on previous successes or court-ordered rules?

Basic Rule Setting

As a means of preparation for meeting with the child and the team, create *basic* house rules that can be applied to most of the family. Put the rules in writing with clear and brief language that can be understood and enforced such as, “Always knock on doors before entering.” Simple, positive words are most effective.

Depending on the age, developmental level, and culture of the foster children, the rules will need to fit their level of understanding as well as their culture.

In many religions (Muslim, Jewish, and Christianity, for example), fasting or particular foods are not to be eaten during certain seasons or celebrations. In some cultures, showering or socializing for females while they have their periods is not allowed. And most black children, for example, have different hair and skin care needs than most white children.



Topics to consider when writing house rules include:

- Hygiene
- Meals and snacks
- Clothing
- Bedtime
- Use of telephones and computer
- General housekeeping and chores
- Communication

Other topics to consider, depending upon the age and issues of children that you foster include:

- Curfew/supervision
- Consequences (of smoking, or using drugs, or alcohol; running away, law violations, etc.)
- Appropriate clothing
- Dating and social activities
- Medications, keeping in mind that the Wisconsin foster care code says that all medicine must be locked up

Sample House Rules

The following are possible topic areas to consider when developing house rules for your family and foster or adoptive placement. When creating the guidelines, consider the questions that the foster child may have about how you and your family operate. Consider rules that will meet the needs of the children in your home and your parenting style.

Hygiene

How many showers or baths and hair washing per week are kids expected to take? What time limit, if any, is placed on the shower or bathroom time?

"We expect you to shower or bath at least every day. Each family member may spend 30 minutes in the bathroom."

Meals and snacks

Where and when can people eat? Can they get snacks by asking? Can they get in the cupboards on their own?

"We expect everyone to eat breakfast and supper together at the kitchen table. Snacks can be eaten in the TV room but please ask up first."

Clothing

Who does the laundry? What do family members do with dirty clothes?

"Each person will fold his or her own laundry and place clean clothes in the dresser; dirty clothes in the bathroom hamper one time per week. Johnnie will wash and dry all the laundry."

Bedtime

Where are the children allowed to sleep? When do they go to bed? How do they wake up in the morning?

"Bedtime is 8 pm on school nights and 9 pm on weekends. Each person will sleep in pajamas and sleep in his or her own bed, unless there's a special occasion (camping, sleepover where friends sleep in the living room, etc.)."

Telephone

Who can use the telephone? How often can the phone be used to talk to family or friends? Is there anyone who can't call (especially because of a court order, team meeting, etc.)?

"Feel free to call your friends and family every day, but no calls past 9:00 please"

Chores

What work or household chores are expected of family members? Is there an allowance? (Remember, the Wisconsin foster care code says that each child be given weekly spending money.) Can extra money be earned?

"Each person will sign up for a chore to be done each day for one week. Children will earn money for a completed chore. If a chore is not finished, there will be no payment for that day."

Communication

If children are feeling frustrated or mad, how does your family work out disagreements or fights? Where should kids go and what should they do when they are mad or angry?

"If you are feeling frustrated, angry or upset, tell us that you need some time to talk to us alone. Try to be patient and maintain your cool if we're not available right away."

Computer Use

Can children use the computer? What sites are acceptable? Do kids need permission before using the computer? For what purpose can it be used?

"You may use the computer for one hour a day, but please ask first. If you get stuck, ask for help."



Involving the Child and Family Members

Children, especially teens, can learn from talking with you about the house rules and what and why you expect certain behavior from them. Consider having a family meeting where family members can discuss their needs, wants and problems with certain rules. Don't forget to also talk about what's working well.

Be open to updating or removing the house rule. If it appears that your children have been complying with a particular house rule and no longer need it, by all means let them know how well they've done and change the rule to give them more freedom.

By creating reasonable house rules that your children can achieve, you will be promoting self-esteem, self-control and overall success.

© 2012 Adoption Resources of Wisconsin ARWFCARC
Used with permission from Adoption Resources of Wisconsin, Inc.
<http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org>

Outside Fun for Winter Weather

On-going Events

Public Skating Hours

(Check website for holiday hours)

Eble Park Ice Arena

Monday - Friday...Noon - 3 PM
Sat. & Sun...2 - 4 PM



Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena

Monday - Friday...Noon - 2 PM
Sat. & Sun...3 - 5 PM

New Year's Eve Skate - Both Locations

Snow shoe rentals available at Retzer Nature Center

Everyday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM

Sledding Hills

- Menomonee
- Minooka
- Mukwonago
- Nashotah



Cross-Country Ski Trails (packed and tracked)

- Menomonee
- Minooka
- Nashotah

Winter Hiking and Snowshoe Trails (packed)

- Fox River
- Muskego
- Retzer Nature Center



Save the date:

Waukesha's JamBoree - January 18 - 20

Retzer's Wild Winter Night - February 2, 6 to 9 PM

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Foster Parents and Social Workers: Allies and Advocates for Youth in Care

By: Adoption Resources of Wisconsin - ARW/FCARC



Foster parents and social workers provide essential and critical roles in ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the children who are entrusted in their care and supervision.

By working together; as allies and advocates for youth in care, foster parents and social workers will be able to effectively identify, address and successfully fulfill the needs of children in care .

Tom Eckels, social worker with the Wood County Department of Social Services, shares his perspective on the importance of foster parents and social workers uniting together to ensure that the best interests of children in care are being met:

- **Develop and maintain a mutually respectful and cooperative working relationship with one another.** Youth in care rely on their foster parents and social workers, to form a partnership in order to ensure that their needs are being addressed, assessed and met.
- **Establish open and consistent lines of communication.** Just as communication is important for maintaining all healthy relationships, it is essential for meeting the needs of children in care. Communication between foster parent and social workers is vital, and by establishing open lines of communication, potential misunderstandings and misinterpretations will be avoided.

Social workers need to receive feedback from foster parents on a consistent and continual basis. Foster parents should **never** feel that what they have to say is not important, relevant, etc. This information and input is **always** valuable and appreciated.

Conversely, social workers have the responsibility of sharing information regarding a child who is in need of placement, but that information is not always available to the social worker.

For example, when an emergency placement occurs, the social worker is not always able to obtain all of the information at that time, due to many factors: time constraints, lack of the parents willingness to share information, not being able to find the key people during the emergency. However, it is imperative to share information, feedback, and input with one another throughout the course of the child's placement in care.

- **Comply with the guidelines that are outlined in the case plan.** Foster parents have a natural advocacy role in all areas and as a result, they need to fully consider the goals and objectives outlined in the case plan throughout their advocacy efforts. Again, open communication is essential to ensuring the ultimate success of the case plan. Be willing to share your opinions and suggestions with the social worker.
- **Work effectively with birth parents and extended family members.** In foster care, the goal is to reunite children with their family when it is deemed appropriate and in the best interest of the child. Therefore, the child's family plays and integral role throughout the placement.

Teach and model positive parenting skills to the birth parent(s) by being supportive, consistent, respectful, and flexible regarding their child. Family interactions are a priority; unless deemed otherwise by the court.

- **Confidentiality.** Keep information about your child/youth in care and their families confidential at all times. Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 48—Children's Code and Chapter 938—Juvenile Code, and "Rules for Licensing Foster Homes" prohibit the sharing of confidential case information with unauthorized people. If you have additional questions regarding confidentiality issues, we encourage you to talk with your foster care coordinator.
- **Collaborate with community groups, community agencies and local and state resources** to provide the child and his or her family with assistance and support. Community groups and organizations are valuable resources for yourself, your child and your child's family. Consult with your child/youth's social worker about what opportunities would be available and appropriate.
- **Seek out guidance and training opportunities** through local and state foster and adoption support groups, associations and resource centers. Local and state associations provide guidance, support, training and mentoring/peer network support opportunities and are highly recommended resources.

© 2008 Adoption Resources of Wisconsin ARWFCARC
Used with permission from Adoption Resources of Wisconsin, Inc.
<http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org>

November 2012 Placements

Regular Foster Care: 47 Children	Treatment Foster Care: 12 Children	Group Homes: 3 Children	Residential Care Facilities: 9 Children
Relative Placements: 51 Children	Level 2 Foster Homes: 117 Homes	Level 1 Foster Homes: 35 Homes	Total Homes Assisting Other Counties 14 Homes

Contact Numbers:

Waukesha H & HS
262-548-7212

Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7666

Medical Emergency: 911
Family Emergency: 211

Foster Parent Mentor

Jen Barcus.....262-542-2926
David Mersfelder.....262-542-2926
Nikki Mertens.....262-246-6180

Rebecca Hollister, Supervisor
262-548-7271

Mary Alice Grosser, Supervisor
262-548-7272

Kathy Mullooly, Supervisor
262-896-6832

Shari Rather, Foster Care Coord.
262-548-7267

Libby Sinclair, Relative Licensing
262-548-7277

Social Workers:

Jennifer Adler.....262-548-7265

Bob Alioto.....262-548-7262

Suzanne Arnold.....262-548-7348

Megan Fishler262-896-8570

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

Becca Kuester.....262-896-6857

Maria Maurer262-548-7345

Susan Peck.....262-896-8574

Madeline Prange262-548-7394

Janis Ramos.....262-896-8069

Michael Reed.....262-548-7347

Cindie Remshek.....262-548-7639

Greg Rewolinski262-548-7270

Elizabeth Russo262-548-7349

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

Mark Sasso262-548-7346

Linda Senger262-548-7698

Kinship Workers:

Linda Finn.....262-548-7254

Deb Fosberg.....262-548-7256

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

FASPP
Norma Schoenberg
920-922-9627

