

Wright County Human Services

Child Foster Care

August 2010

Wright County Human Services, 1004 Commercial Dr, Buffalo, MN 55313 - 763-682-7400
<http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/humanservices/childfoster.asp>

Back to School

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Summer is almost over...it's time to go back to school! Returning to school can be an exciting and stressful time in a foster child's life. Here are some tips to help with the transition:

1. Healthy kids perform better in school! Check the date of the child's last physical, dental and vision appointments. Make sure everything is current, including immunizations. Start establishing bedtime and morning routines. Studies show that children who are well rested do better in school.
2. Discuss with the placing social worker who will be responsible for completing enrollment forms and signing permission slips (permission for playing sports or field trips).
3. Does the child have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education, behavior, or other services? Be an advocate for the child and attend the team meetings! Your input is important. The placing social worker or parent should always sign special education documents.
4. Practice address and phone numbers. Children new to your home need to know this for safety purposes. Make sure they know your full name, how to spell it correctly, and where you work.
5. How will your foster child get to school? Is it appropriate for them to walk, ride the bus or ride their bike? If so, practice the route to school or to the bus stop. Teach the child how to cross the street safely, lock up their bike, or talk about appropriate behavior on the bus.
6. Attend open house or tour school building. Take the opportunity to meet the teachers and to visit the child's room when you enroll. Practice opening lockers if applicable.
7. Be involved with your foster child's education and with the school. Volunteer to be a room parent or help plan holiday parties for the child's class. Go on field trips or volunteer to come in and read to the kids. Most kids love to see their care givers being involved in their activities.
8. Create a cover story. A cover story is something that the foster child can tell others about why they are now in your home. Using cover stories is not about telling lies, it's about keeping information private that could be used to tease and harass. Discuss who is their "safe person" is talk to at school (school social workers or counselors). By doing so we are trying to create the best possible environment for our foster children.

***"Fostering is the
hardest job you'll ever
love."***

~ Unknown

Wright County Foster Care Picnic

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25, 2010
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
UPPER STURGES PARK SHELTER IN BUFFALO

*Foster Care Picnic +
Good Friends =*

*END OF SUMMER
FUN!*

RSVP with number attending or with regrets ASAP to:
763-682-7488 or
tamara.romer@co.wright.mn.us
or your licenser.

Relatives as Parents Program

Are you raising the children of a family member or close friend? **Child Care Choices** can help! This is a Regional Service Agency of the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association (MKCA).

MNKCA is a non-profit organization that advocates for, supports, and provides information and resources to people raising their grandchildren or children of other kin and friends. They provide support in a variety of ways, including information and referrals to resources (legal, financial, etc.) and connecting caregivers with workshops and educational opportunities. There are also support groups that regularly meet in St. Cloud, Cokato and Marshall.

If you are raising a grandchild, niece, nephew, or other close friend or family member, please call Crystal at (320) 251-5081 ext. 18 or email cpetersen@childcarechoices.net.

*“The essence of
teaching is to make
learning contagious, to
have one idea spark
another.”*

~ Carl W. Buechner

Website

Have you been to the Wright County Child Foster Care Website lately? The site has been updated! Check out the new **Provider Corner** section! You will find the newsletters, resources, and provider forms. The resources include information regarding: foster care, child development, permanency, mental health, education, cultural resources, and general resources. The resources are in the form of websites and/or handouts. You will continue to find a listing of the trainings and support groups offered through Wright County. Watch for the 2011 training schedules coming out this fall!

<http://www.co.wright.mn.us/department/humanservices/childfoster.asp>

Correction

We would like to recognize an error printed in our May Newsletter. In the Foster Parent Recognition section, Peggy and Bill Murphy were listed as providing 10 or more years of child foster care services. The Murphys were licensed in 1990 and have been doing child foster care for 20 years! Congratulations Peggy and Bill!

PATH Crisis Nursery Fundraiser

You are invited to participate in the upcoming...

Timberdash 5K Trail Run + Walk and Kid's Run
Lake Maria State Park near Monticello
October 2nd at 9AM

You can run, walk, volunteer, or sponsor this great event. It will be fun, good for your health and a benefit to children and families. What better way to spend a Saturday morning!

Register at the website:
www.timberdash.com or call 763-271-1681.
Hope to see you there!

*"Exercise: you don't
have time not to"*

~ Unknown

Tax Time Reminders

When receiving placements, remember to ask about the type of placement and what funding source will be utilized. In general, the majority of child foster care payments are considered "reimbursement" and therefore not seen as income when you complete your taxes.

However, respite care is often considered income and therefore would need to be reported at tax time. When licensed child foster care providers provide respite for one another, the rule of thumb is to exchange the allotted daily rate for children in care without involving the county human services agency regarding payment.

Please consult your tax professional for more specific information. Wright County Human Services cannot provide tax law advice or interpretation.

<http://www.irs.gov>

[http://taxes.state.mn.us/
Pages/index.aspx](http://taxes.state.mn.us/Pages/index.aspx)

Wright County Human Services presents....

Foster Parent College

Training for Adoptive, Kinship and Foster Parents

<http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/>

Wright County Human Services recognizes the hard work and dedication that it takes to be a Child Foster Care Provider. As you know, children in foster care have a variety of needs. The Foster Parent College DVD library is available for you as a resource.

Foster Parent College states the following:

“We provide innovative, research-based, interactive online workshops for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents.”

“We strive to give foster, adoptive and kinship parents the knowledge they need to raise children who will thrive in today's world.”

How to access the library:

- 1. Contact Jill Marzean or Kris Carlson to request a DVD.**
- 2. Pick up the DVD or it will be mailed to you.**
- 3. Return the DVD in 2 weeks.**

Jill Marzean - 763-682-7484
jill.marzean@co.wright.mn.us

Kris Carlson - 763-684-2311
kris.carlson@co.wright.mn.us

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Anger Outburst
 Eating Disorders
 Fire-Setting
 Sexualized Behavior
 Lying
 Sleep Problems
 Wetting and Soiling
 Running Away
 Stealing
 Self-Harm
 Positive Parenting 1
 Positive Parenting 2
 Positive Parenting 3
 Safe Parenting
 Reactive Attachment Disorder (R.A.D.)
 ADHD/ADD/ODD
 Kinship Care
 Working with Birth Parents 1: Visitation
 Working with Schools
 Childhood Anxiety Disorders
 House Safety
 Children with Autism
 Anger Pie
 Grief and Loss
 Culturally Competent Parenting
 Child Safety & Supervision
 Substance Exposed Infants

Rule & Statute Reminders

As a refresher, in each quarterly newsletter, we will highlight a specific child foster care rule or statute. These are only highlights. The entire statute should be referenced for more detailed information.

CHAPTER 245C HUMAN SERVICES BACKGROUND STUDIES

245C.03 BACKGROUND STUDY; INDIVIDUALS TO BE STUDIED.

Background studies are required for license holders, all household members age 13 and older, all long-term substitute care givers, and any individual who may have unsupervised access to children when the agency has reasonable cause to request a study. A short-term substitute caregiver, providing less than 72 hours of continuous care, is not required to have a background study. *However, Wright County Human Services asks that any substitute caregiver you plan to use on a regular basis complete background study.*

245C.04 WHEN BACKGROUND STUDY MUST OCCUR.

Subd. 1 (e) Any new household member or long-term substitute caregiver must submit background study forms to the agency *before* individual may have unsupervised access to foster children.

245C.13 BACKGROUND STUDY PROCESSING.

The subject of a background study may not live in the home, provide care, or have access to foster children without continuous and direct supervision until the background study is complete.

245C.04 WHEN BACKGROUND STUDY MUST OCCUR

Subd. 1 (i) A license holder must notify the agency when an individual leaves and returns to the home following an absence of 45 or more consecutive days.

245C.09 FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH BACKGROUND STUDY.

Failure or refusal to cooperate with the background study process is reasonable cause to disqualify a subject, deny a license application, or immediately suspend or revoke a license.

When submitting background study requests, foster families should consider that if the individual completing a background study has a disqualifying crime on their record, the state will determine if this individual poses a possible safety risk to children placed in the foster home. Consult with your licenser throughout the background study process.

Ideas, Thoughts, Comments?

Do you have anything you would like to see covered in the next Child Foster Care newsletter? Do you have any questions for the licensing team?

We are looking for newsletter topics and would appreciate any ideas you have. Please contact Jill or Kris with ideas, thoughts, or comments.

Check out the flyer:

***Relatives as Parents
Workshop***
