

Wright County Human Services

Child Foster Care

May 2010

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

Foster Care Month

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As many of you know, May is foster care month. Our agency would like to thank you for your continued commitment to the child foster care program and for your outstanding abilities to care for children in your homes. The children in your care are often struggling through times of intense loss and sadness regarding their current family situation. You have extended your hearts and homes to offer safety, support, and guidance for these children. While the role of a foster parent is not always easy, you see the importance of providing a child with a positive and reliable place to call home during an emotionally complicated time. Wright County Human Services appreciates the time, flexibility, and energy you all give for the children in our county. Thank you!

Foster Parent Recognition

Foster Parents Licensed 5 years or more:

Jennifer Carpentier
Laure & Neale Doering
Cindy & Tim Foster
Berenice & Art Jurgens
Lisa & Tony Shore

Dawn & David Rostomily
Ronelle & Tim Lundeen
Rita & Justin (Jesse) Pettit

Foster Parents Licensed 10 years or more:

Suzie & Jeff Blake
Diana & Jerry Bible
Jennifer & Chad Filek
Katherine & Patrick Kasheimer
Peggy & Bill Murphy
Cathy & Mike Reich
Elizabeth Kirkham (June)
Jennifer Levasseur

Foster Parents Licensed 20 years or more:

Kathy & Galen Eastlack (July)
Carole & Ralph Nystrom
Mike & Judy Wadsworth

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

~ Unknown

Child and Teen Checkup

The child must be seen by a doctor within the first 30 days of placement.

Has the child in my care been to the doctor lately? What medical insurance does this child have? These are questions that must be asked when a child has arrived in your home. When making an appointment for the child, ask for a Child and Teen Checkup! This is a comprehensive physical including an exam, shots, hearing and vision check, and a referral to a dentist. This exam also includes review of the child's developmental stages. If you have questions about making this appointment, please talk to your placing social worker or Wright County Public Health at 763-682-8921. See the attached brochure for more information.

Relative/Kinship Foster Care

"Even Superman had Foster Parents"

~ Unknown

Providing foster care to a child that you already have a relationship with can be very challenging. One of the challenges is maintaining confidentiality with other family members. Depending on the dynamics of the relationship, you may be able to tell them that "Susie rolled over for the first time", "Billy hit a home run in t-ball", or "Sarah got an A on her math test". Some of the things that you may not discuss are: the reason the child was brought into care, what the parent(s) are doing to get the child back, or what goes on in court. Rule of thumb...if it is specific to the child or parent and why they are working with Wright County Human Services, then do not discuss this with anyone but the professionals involved in the child's life. What happens when my relative keeps calling wanting information? Put a post-it note by your phone of a response that you are comfortable with, "I can't talk about that, call the social worker". If it becomes excessive, you have a right to not answer their phone calls. They can leave a message and you can return their call. The bottom line is for you as foster parents to protect the privacy rights of the child and parent(s).

Summer Fun!

Summer is just around the corner! Start planning your summer time adventures with these resources:

"They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

~ Carl W. Buechner

Explore the St. Cloud area! Check out the St. Cloud Area Convention and Visitors Bureau '**Explore**' tab for area activities and attractions. <http://www.granitecountry.com/>

Did you know that there are 20 county parks right here in Wright County? Check out the '**Programs**' tab for activities in the park system! <http://www.co.wright.mn.us/department/parks/>

Minnesota Children's Museum offers a **Foster Care Passport!** A yearly fee of \$59 gives the license holders and children under age 18 in the household unlimited access to the museum. Visit the website for more information! <http://www.mcm.org/museum-information/membership/special-membership/>

Training

How does abuse and neglect impact children? What is attachment, separation and placement all about? What is appropriate discipline for children in care?

Find out at **Foster/Adoptive/Kinship (FAK)** training this spring!

Did you know that Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Car Seat class **expire after five years?**

Check when you took your training and sign up for the necessary classes.

Need a place to vent, get some advice, or to meet more providers? Check out the **support groups** offered by Wright County and Central Minnesota Mental Health Center.

Check out our website for more information.

<http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/humanservices/childfoster.asp#training>

*“Tell me and I’ll forget;
show me and I may
remember; involve me
and I’ll understand.”*

~ Chinese Proverb

Changes in the Annual Review Process

In the past, you have been sent a packet of information to complete and your licensor has visited your home or had a “check in” conversation with you by phone.

Beginning in May 2010, you will be sent an email reminding you to have your fire extinguisher serviced, your well water tested, and any necessary pet vaccinations updated. You will need to provide verification that these tasks have been completed.

Your licensor will continue to contact you by phone or schedule a home visit to check in on how you feel you are being supported by the agency, how placements have been going in your home, and to discuss any suggestions or comments.

Friendly 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.

2960.3090 RESPITE AND SUBSTITUTE CARE FOR FAMILY SETTINGS

In a non-emergency situation, the license holder, parent, and placing social worker must agree on respite or substitute care arrangements. If an emergency occurs and respite or substitute care must be used, notify the placing social worker as soon as possible. You may give the respite provider information related to the foster child's health, safety, and welfare. You must communicate with the placing social worker regarding overnights or short trips with your foster child. Keep in contact with the placing social worker regarding respite!

SIDS, Shaken Baby, and Child Passenger Restraint training must be completed every five years. This five year mark is fast approaching for many of you. Please review our website for SIDS, Shaken Baby, and Child Passenger Restraint training opportunities. Contact your licenser if you are unsure when your current training on these topics will expire.
<http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/humanservices/childfoster.asp#training>

245A.1435 REDUCTION OF RISK OF SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME IN LICENSED PROGRAMS.

When placing an infant to sleep, the infant must be paced on its back.

Infants must sleep in a crib with a firm mattress and a fitted sheet. The license holder must not place pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskin, pillow-like stuffed toys, or other soft products in the crib with the infant...

245A.144 SUDDEN INFANT DEATH AND SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME FOR CHILDFOSTER CARE PROVIDERS.

Anyone that cares for infants or children through five years of age must have Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome training. The training must be at least one hour and completed every five years. The training must be approved by Wright County Human Services.

245A.18 CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.

License holders must comply with seat belt and car seat laws.

Anyone who transports a child under the age of nine must have car seat training. The training must be at least one hour and completed every five years. The training must be approved by Wright County Human Services.

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.