

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

IFAPA Conference Registration Deadline is on Valentines Day

IFAPA SPRING CONFERENCE

Friday, March 4th & Saturday, March 5th, 2011

Ramada Tropics Resort & Conf. Center, Des Moines

IFAPA hosts a spring training conference every year for foster and adoptive parents, kinship caregivers and social workers. All of our conference trainings are approved for foster parent credit and many are also approved for social worker CEUs. Full conference details, including workshop descriptions, hotel information and the daily schedule can be found at:

www.ifapa.org/training/ifapa_conference.asp.

CONFERENCE RATES

2-Day Conf. Rate - \$65 person / 1-Day Conf. Rate - \$45 person
 (see conference scholarship opportunity in box below)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE - Feb. 14th

To register, please complete the registration form at the end of the conference booklet (found on our website) and mail to IFAPA with a check or money order.

All registrations should be postmarked by Monday, February 14, 2011.

Due to class size limitations (space at hotel) attendees are asked to include a 2nd choice when completing your registration form in case your first choice is unavailable.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Family to Family Iowa has training scholarships available for families caring for children with special health care needs (developmental, behavioral, emotional, and physical). This funding is limited and available on a first-come-first-serve basis through Family to Family Iowa. Family to Family Iowa is a statewide network of organizations that provide family to family support and a grant project of the Children Health Specialty Clinics. You can use these scholarships to attend a training or conference, including the IFAPA Conference on March 4th & 5th in Des Moines (www.ifapa.org/training/ifapa_conference.asp). **FUNDING CAN ALSO BE USED FOR HOTEL LODGING.**

TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP - Find the Family to Family Iowa application at this link: www.ifapa.org/training/documents/ScholarshipApplicationFamilytoFamily.pdf.

NOTE: funding is limited and available on a first-come-first-serve basis so get your application in quickly; only 8 applications will be funded for each conference.

For additional info, contact Erica Zito at erica-zito@uiowa.edu or 319-356-7741.

THANK YOU!

IFAPA Receives Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant

We would like to thank Prairie Meadows for granting IFAPA \$5,000 through their Community Betterment project. This grant will fund the trainings of Dr. Wayne Duehn at the 2011 IFAPA Spring Conference. To learn more about Dr. Duehn and his trainings visit:



www.ifapa.org/training/ifapa_conference.asp.

Training Requirements for Foster Parents

In Iowa, foster parents need six hours of training annually to renew their foster care license. At least three training hours must be done in a group setting. Foster parents must complete all of their training requirements prior to the date list in the table below.

If you were licensed in the following month:	All of your training requirements must be completed by the following date:
May 2010	February 28, 2011
June 2010	March 31, 2011
July 2010	April 30, 2011
August 2010	May 31, 2011
September 2010	June 30, 2011
October 2010	July 31, 2011
November 2010	August 31, 2011
December 2010	September 30, 2011

One in four legislators are new to the Iowa Legislature in 2011. With 25% of the legislators learning the ropes this year, it is more important than ever to get involved and help educate your legislators about the issues you care about.

IFAPA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

**Tuesday., February 15, 2011 (7am to 9am)
State Capitol Bldg - Legislative Dining Room**

We invite you and your family to our Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, February 15 at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Iowa's foster, adoptive and kinship families are improving the child welfare and child protective system by advocating to their legislators for positive change. IFAPA will continue to work to be a voice for children and families, but we need your help. In these tough financial times it is imperative that IFAPA members keep their legislators informed on the issues facing children in their care. Sharing specific information such as: how adoption subsidy has made a difference for your child; how a child has blossomed with the structure and consistency of foster care; how your family has been able to work with birth parents to return a child home; how a training taught you ways to parent a difficult teen - all tell the story of the importance of funding for foster care and adoption programs.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to IFAPA at 800-277-8145x4. For tips on speaking with Legislators, visit: www.ifapa.org/resources/legislative_resources.asp

Free Resource for Foster Parents & Social Workers

FosterClub has created a coloring book designed just for kids entering the foster care system. With coloring pages and activities like puzzles, mazes, and more, this book is the coolest way to learn about foster care!

Foster Cub helps foster parents, case workers, courts, advocates, and other supportive adults talk to children about foster care:

- Provides an introduction to foster care and decreases fears about entering care
- Empowers a child to ask questions and provides supportive adults with child-friendly answers
- Offers conversation-starters to help improve communication during a traumatic time



This 32 page coloring book is designed for children ages four to twelve. The pages are available to download for free on the FosterClub website:

www.fosterclub.com/article/coloring-book



INTERNET & CONFIDENTIALITY RULES FOR FOSTER PARENTS

DHS asked IFAPA to inform foster parents who use personal internet sites such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace that they must never include the names or any personal information about foster children in information they post, nor should they ever post a photo of a foster child on any internet site. Such actions would be a violation of confidentiality standards. **DHS would prefer that foster parents not identify themselves as foster parents on such sites.**

ALL CHILDREN (INFANT-AGE 3) ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY ACCESS SERVICES

ATTN FOSTER PARENTS -- Did you know that all children in foster care between the ages of birth to three are eligible for Early ACCESS services? Early ACCESS is an integrated system of early intervention services. The signatory agencies (the Department of Education as the lead agency, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Child Health Specialty Clinics) are the agencies in Iowa that form the foundation of the coordinated statewide interagency system.

Children who have known conditions, are born prematurely, have been exposed to drugs or lead, are 25% delayed in their development, or are in foster care, are automatically eligible for services through Early ACCESS from ages birth to three.

If you are interested in having the child in your care referred to Early ACCESS, please contact your child's Department of Human Services (DHS) Case Manager. Consent from a parent or legal guardian is necessary for the child to be evaluated and to receive services.

All children in Early ACCESS receive service coordination. Depending on the special needs of the child, Early ACCESS services could include:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Assistive Technology | • Physical Therapy |
| • Audiology | • Psychological |
| • Family Training/Counseling | • Sign Language & Cued Speech |
| • Health Services | • Social Work |
| • Medical Evaluation | • Special Instruction |
| • Nursing | • Speech & Language Pathology |
| • Nutrition | • Transportation |
| • Occupational Therapy | • Vision |

If you have questions about Early ACCESS, please visit the web-site at www.EarlyACCESSIowa.org or call toll free 1-888-IAKIDS1 (1-888-425-4371).