

JUNE 7, 2011

WAITING CHILD SPOTLIGHT

Sasha is a young woman who likes to keep busy. She enjoys baking, cooking, going to church activities, shopping, socializing, having her hair done, and painting her nails. She also appreciates computer time and listening to music.

Sasha likes school and is doing well in her classroom.

Adults in Sasha's life point out that people really like her—she is helpful, friendly, and a good conversationalist. She enjoys family activities like watching TV, shopping, and going to church together. She also wants to stay in touch with her brothers. Sasha needs a little help with completing tasks, and requires consistent boundaries and structure.

The family best suited for Sasha may be one who is experienced dealing with emotional issues. Sasha has been through a lot, and is working on managing anger. Sasha thrives on individual attention, so it will be imperative that her future family be able to give her the time she needs and be willing to work on her therapy as a team. It may take a long time for Sasha to feel safe, secure, and loved. She wants to be independent and wants to let people know that she has personal goals.

Can you open your heart and home to Sasha? For more info, contact Iowa KidsNet at 800-243-0756 or visit www.iowakidsnet.com.



ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALL IFAPA HAS TO OFFER?

We can support
you in the
following ways...

Trainings for Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Parents - IFAPA offers a variety of continuing education to foster, adoptive and kinship parents throughout the year. IFAPA strives to provide effective trainings on issues relevant to parenting children currently or previously in Iowa's foster care system.

Peer Liaisons - IFAPA has eleven Foster and Adoptive Parent Peer Liaisons across the state. They are experienced foster parents and may be adoptive parents as well. Our Peer Liaisons provide peer-to-peer support and mentoring to foster and adoptive parents in their assigned area of the state. This includes providing information and assistance to families regarding foster care and adoption concerns; contacting newly licensed foster parents, and visiting area support groups.

Resource Information Specialists - IFAPA employs two Resource Information Specialists who are available to answer questions on adoption and foster care issues. They help families successfully meet the challenges of parenting the children placed in their home through telephone support, educational materials, knowledge of services available and connections to other families.

Friends of Children in Foster Care - IFAPA's mission is to provide Iowa foster children with the funds they need for those special "extras" in life which they would otherwise not receive. Some examples include a week at summer camp, swimming lessons, a class trip or even having their senior pictures taken. This program is solely funded by community grants, personal donations and IFAPA fundraisers.

Kinship Connections Project - The Kinship Connections Project is a resource for families caring for a relative's child or a child considered kin placed through Juvenile Court. The Kinship Project provides peer support, resources and referrals to community services.

F.A.I.R. Line (Foster Allegation Information Resource) - This program was developed to assist foster and adoptive parents across Iowa who face an allegation of abuse or neglect. The FAIR phone line is designed to provide support and resources to parents during a difficult time.

Subsidized Adoption Respite Program - Families who receive adoption subsidy are eligible for five days of respite per year. IFAPA administers the Subsidized Adoption Respite Program for DHS by facilitating the respite payments.

Listserv Discussion Group - The IFAPA listserv connects and provides support to foster and adoptive families via the internet. Members can post questions and answers and share information on topics of interest.

IFAPA Publications - IFAPA publishes a variety of resource materials for foster, adoptive and kinship parents to enhance their parenting skills. All publications are free of charge and are available on our website or can be mailed to families.

To find more information about these IFAPA programs, visit our website:

www.ifapa.org/about_IFAPA/IFAPA_programs.asp

IFAPA TRAININGS

Preventative Practices II: Updated Strategies for Minimizing the Risk of Child Abuse Allegations in Your Home (6 hrs credit) - This training is a revised version of the original Preventative Practices class and covers updated information regarding child abuse allegations and the best way to protect yourself and minimize your risk of abuse allegations. You will learn strategies to help protect yourself and improve your relationship with the professional team. **Trained by IFAPA team**

Sat., June 11 (9am-4:30pm) - **Cedar Falls** (Hawkeye College)
Sat., July 16 (9am-4:30pm) - **Bettendorf** (Bettendorf Library)
Sat., Aug. 13 (9am-4:30pm) - **Ames** (Country Inn & Suites)

Caring for Children with HIV (3 hrs credit) - In this training participants will learn how to engage confidently in infection-control precautions and respond appropriately and sensitively to concerns about HIV transmission. You will also learn to manage the challenges of confidentiality and join as a part of a care giving team that responds effectively to cultural differences, social burdens, daily problems, grief and loss issues and the needs of caregivers. Participants will also receive a brief overview of the Iowa DHS HIV Protocols on confidentiality, testing & placement of HIV-infected children. **Trainer: Nancy Magnall**

Sat., June 25 (9am-12:15pm) - **Ankeny** (DMACC)
Sat., July 16 (9am-12:15pm) - **Council Bluffs** (IWCC)

Understanding & Responding to the Sexual Behaviors of Children & Adolescents (3 hrs credit) - This class will give parents the tools they need to understand what sexual behaviors are normal at various ages and developmental stages and what behaviors might be considered abusive or problematic. The trainer will share strategies parents can implement when speaking with children in response to their sexual behavior. Participants will have the opportunity to practice responding to real-life situations they might encounter involving the sexual behavior of children. **Trainer: Nancy Magnall**

Sat., June 25 (1:30pm-4:45pm) - **Ankeny** (DMACC)
Sat., July 16 (1:30pm-4:45pm) - **Council Bluffs** (IWCC)

To register, call IFAPA at 800-277-8145 ext. 1

View IFAPA's entire summer training schedule at:

www.ifapa.org/training/ifapa_training_schedule.asp

NOTICE FROM DHS

Your DHS workers are asking you to assist in successfully "closing the books" on FY11 budget year by submitting invoices/claims for any foster care respite, day care, clothing allowance or other special issuances for which you are entitled payment **no later than July 15, 2011**. DHS wants to avoid payments having to be made out of next year's budget for this year's services if at all possible. If you have questions, talk with your placement workers, IFAPA Peer Liaison or your IKN Support Staff.

HAVE YOU READ THE DHS FOSTER PARENT HANDBOOK?

We all know children don't come with instruction manuals. When you're a foster parent, the DHS Foster Parent Handbook is the next best thing. It is important for all foster parents to read the DHS Foster Parent Handbook. The handbook will provide foster parents with vital and practical information regarding the important task of providing care to Iowa's children and their families. This handbook covers a variety of topics including becoming licensed, placement information, medical care, safety, visits and family contact, record keeping, behavior management, court proceeding, finances, training and preventing child abuse. Here are a couple sections taken straight from the Foster Parent Handbook for parents to review.

Foster Care Respite

"Respite" is defined as a temporary break from the provision of 24-hour foster care. Its purpose is to help reduce stress and retain quality foster homes. Respite should be arranged and approved by the child's worker as far in advance as possible. Respite care can be provided only by another licensed foster parent who can accept the child within their licensed capacity. Only DHS can approve variances to the capacity limit.

Each foster child is eligible for 24 days of respite care per placement in a calendar year. Respite does not necessitate an overnight stay. Any partial day counts as a day of respite for reimbursement purposes. For overnight stays, each night is counted as a "respite day." Contact your child's worker if you have questions about respite, such as how many days you have left or when a payment was made.

Traveling With Your Foster Child

It is permissible to take your foster children with you when you are traveling within the state of Iowa. If you are planning to be gone overnight or more than 24 hours, you need to advise your DHS caseworker where you can be contacted. DHS, as legal custodian, has the responsibility to know the whereabouts of the foster child. If you are planning any travel out-of-state and wish to take the foster child along, you must get prior approval. Request this at least 30 days before the trip. The child's parent must sign a written authorization giving the child permission for out-of-state travel. If you are not able to obtain permission from the parents or guardian or obtain the court approval to take the child out of state, you must make respite arrangements for the child's care in your absence. The child's worker must be included in the respite planning.



Special problems may arise when a child needs medical care while outside the state, so plan according because few out-of-state providers wish to participate in the Iowa Medicaid Program. Make sure you have an adequate supply of regularly prescribed medication or supplies. Talk to your child's DHS worker about what to do if medical care is needed and a Medicaid provider is not available.

How can I find the DHS Foster Parent Handbook?

The entire handbook along with other resources helpful to foster parents can be found on the IFAPA website under the Foster Care Resources section: www.ifapa.org/resources/foster_care_resources.asp.