

MAY 4, 2011

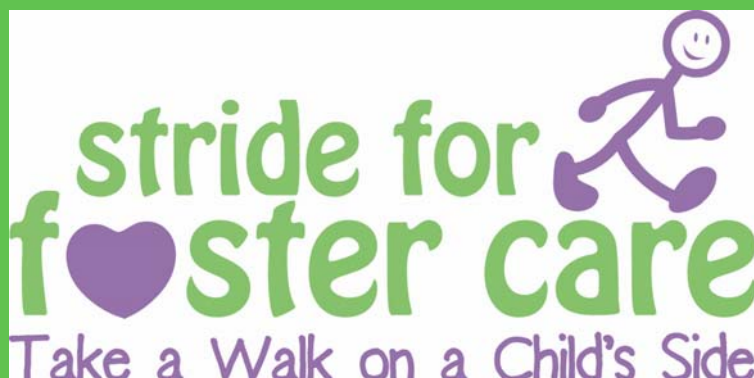
MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH!

IFAPA would like to thank all of the current foster parents in Iowa for opening your home to parenting children in foster care. We appreciate the love and support that you shower these children with every day! We would also like to thank those who may have recently "retired" as foster parents, we appreciate the years you put in to being that stable family every child needs. And lastly, we would like to thank those who have recently stepped up to the plate and are currently going through PS-MAPP classes to help a child in need. We welcome you to the exciting world of foster parenting!

SAVE THE DATE! ADVENTURELAND DAY IS AUG. 27!!

We invite you to join us at our annual IFAPA Fun Day on Saturday, August 27th at Adventureland Amusement Park in Altoona for all of Iowa's foster, adoptive and kinship families. Please watch your mailboxes this summer for our discount ticket offer or watch our events page for additional details: www.ifapa.org/events/default.asp. For other events happening around the state, visit the Iowa KidsNet website: www.iowakidsnet.com/.

SEE YOU ON SATURDAY!!



SATURDAY, MAY 7TH - WEST DES MOINES, IA

To find more details and to register or donate to the walk, visit:
www.ifapa.org/events/stride_for_foster_care_walk.asp

Free IFAPA Publication

Resource Parents Partnering with Birth Parents to Benefit Children

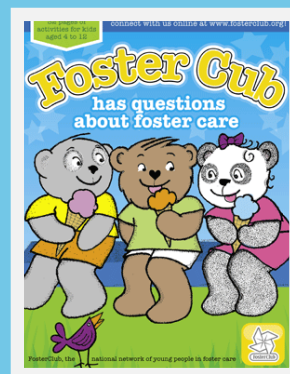
Why did you become a resource parent? Most people would answer this question by saying they want to help children and families, or they want to make a difference in a child's life. One way you can have a big impact on a child's life is by working with the birth parents to rebuild the family.

The role of resource parents includes an expectation to partner with the birth parents of the foster children in their homes. This partnership facilitates and supports reunification or another permanency plan. There are enormous benefits for children and families when resource families and birth families work together. This IFAPA publication will help resource parents gain a better understanding of the importance of positive connections with birth parents and ways resource parents can contribute to the success of these partnerships.

To request a free copy (or multiple copies) of this booklet, please e-mail Crystal Thomason at cthomason@ifapa.org or call 800-277-8145 ext. 5. This booklet and many other free publications for families can also be found online at www.ifapa.org/resources/IFAPA_publications.asp. Iowa social workers are also welcome to request free copies.

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 Club helps foster parents, case workers, courts, advocates, and other supportive adults talk to children about foster care. This 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

DON'T MISS THESE MAY CLASSES!

All of IFAPA's trainings are free (with the exception of CPR & First Aid) to all foster, adoptive and kinship parents. To register for a class listed below, call IFAPA at 800-277-8145 ext. 1 or register online at: www.ifapa.org/training/training_registration_form.asp.

Date & Time	Name of Training	Credit	Location
May 14, 2011 8:30am-11:45am	Supporting Children Exposed to Domestic Violence	3 hours	Ames Country Inn & Suites
May 14, 2011 9am-4:30pm	For Better or Worse...Couples Who Foster - Strategies for Success (<i>couples only</i>)	6 hours	Burlington Great Prairie AEA
May 14, 2011 1:30pm-4:45pm	Supporting Children Exposed to Domestic Violence	3 hours	Des Moines Holiday Inn NW
May 14, 2011 9am-4:30pm	Fostering Hope & Attachment with Youth in Foster and Adoptive Families	6 hours	Iowa City Clarion Hotel
May 14, 2011 9am-4:30pm	Teen Anger: How to Regulate Your Home Atmosphere! <i>Teens are also welcome to attend with a parent.</i>	6 hours	Sioux City NW AEA
May 14, 2011 9am-12:15pm	Responding to Cultural Differences - What's a Parent to Do?	3 hours	Council Bluffs IWCC
May 14, 2011 1:30pm-4:45pm	Promoting Healthy Growth & Development of GLBTQ Youth in Care	3 hours	Council Bluffs IWCC
May 21, 2011 9am-4:30pm	The World of Attachment, Trauma & Bonding: Knowledge is the Key	6 hours	Creston SW Comm. College
May 21, 2011 1:15pm-4:30pm	Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training	3 hours	Des Moines Holiday Inn NW
May 21, 2011 1pm-4:15pm	Supporting Children Exposed to Domestic Violence	3 hours	Dubuque Keystone AEA
May 21, 2011 12pm-4:15pm	CPR & First Aid - see CPR page on IFAPA website to sign-up for this course	4 hours	Mason City to be announced

NOW OFFERING SUMMER CLASSES!

Check out our summer schedule at: www.ifapa.org/training/ifapa_training_schedule.asp.

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 websites.**

using
facebook

IFAPA OFFERS SUPPORT TO PARENTS

IFAPA's Peer Liaisons and Resource Information Specialists provide support to an average of 2,000 foster, adoptive and kinship parents each month. **Have a question?** Contact one of our staff, if we don't have the answer, we'll find it!

IFAPA IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

To find your Peer Liaison's contact information, visit our Peer Liaison webpage at: www.ifapa.org/support/peer_liaisons.asp

To contact one of our Resource Information Specialists, visit: www.ifapa.org/support/resource_information_specialists.asp

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

SUPPORTING CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(3 hrs credit) - This training focuses on the dynamics of domestic violence, the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children, and strategies for supporting children who have been exposed to domestic violence. This class is for parents with all levels of experience in caring for children who have been exposed to domestic violence.

Trainer: Pam Jones

THE WORLD OF ATTACHMENT, TRAUMA & BONDING: KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY

(6 hrs credit) - This class will cover attachment and trauma affecting children and give you therapeutic parenting strategies to work with children to help them not only be compliant but also to heal. Real issues and interventions used in therapy will be discussed. Marty will teach strategies to prepare a child with any trauma or attachment issues before they come to their foster/pre-adoptive home.

Trainer: Marty Wallace, LMHC