

NEWS FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON

September 2016



CANDICE YORK

IFAPA Peer Liaison

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**I UNDERSTAND...
I AM A FOSTER PARENT TOO**

IFAPA recognizes that foster parents often need the perspective of peers during the foster parenting and adoption experience.

I can provide support and assist you with questions regarding:

- Licensing requirements
- Training needs
- Respite care
- Behavior challenges
- Working with birth families
- Confidentiality issues
- And much more!



www.ifapa.org



Understanding Individualized Education Programs

What is an IEP?

A federal law called the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* requires that public schools create an IEP for every child receiving special education services. Kids from age 3 through high school graduation or a maximum age of 22 (whichever comes first) may be eligible for an IEP.

The IEP is meant to address each child's unique learning issues and include specific educational goals. It is a legally binding document. The school must provide everything it promises in the IEP.

Here's a quick look at what an IEP must include, by law:

- A statement of your child's present level of performance (PLOP)—this is how your child is doing in school now
- Your child's annual educational goals
- Special education supports and services that the school will provide to help your child reach goals
- Modifications and accommodations the school will provide to help your child make progress
- Accommodations your child will be allowed when taking standardized tests
- How and when the school will measure your child's progress toward annual goals
- Transition planning that prepares teens for life after high school

Who qualifies for an IEP?

Two things must happen before a child can get special education services.

1. An evaluation. Parents, teachers, a counselor, a doctor or anyone else who suspects a child is struggling can request an evaluation. The school psychologist and other professionals may give your child various tests. They also may observe your child in the classroom. Keep in mind that a physician or another medical professional—not the school—diagnose medical conditions, including ADHD.

2. A decision. The IEP team, which includes parents and school officials, decides whether or not your child needs special education services in order to learn the general education curriculum. IDEA says that having any of 13 disabilities: autism, deaf-blindness, deafness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment including ADHD, specific learning disability such as dyslexia and others, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury or visual impairment *may* qualify a child for special education. The school and parents review the evaluation and determine whether the results show that your child needs services and supports. If the IEP team agrees that your child needs services, then the next step is to create an IEP. If your child is found ineligible, you can still try to get services for your child. For instance, you might pursue a 504 plan. The IEP team creates the plan. If you feel your child needs additional help in school, ask. Advocate. Be their voice. Help is available!

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Check out IFAPA's guide for educators, *Educators Making a Difference for Students*

http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/EducatorsMakingaDifference.pdf

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Sept. 13, 2016 6pm-8pm	TOPIC - It's Not About You - Signs & Symptoms of Trauma in School Age Kids	2 hours	Ottumwa Support/Training Group. GPAEA
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 (9am-12:15pm)	Love is All You Need? (Cultural Responsive Parenting) (Tammera Bibbins, MSW)	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Cntr 6864 NE 14th Street Suite 5
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 (1:15pm-4:30pm)	Why Can't They Stop: Addiction and New Drug Trends (Bobbie Jo Sheridan, LBSW)	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Ctr. 6864 NE 14th Street, Suite 5
Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 (9am-4:30pm)	Counteracting the Effects of Disrupted Attachment with Love, Attunement & Play (Dorothy Lifka)	6 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Cntr 6864 NE 14th Street Suite 5
Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 (1:15pm-4:30pm)	The Magic of Healing the Brain & Fostering a Secure Attachment (Joann Seeman Smith, Ph.D.)	3 hours	Newton Boulders Inn & Suites 4222 S. 22nd Ave E
Sept. 13, 2016 6pm-8pm	TOPIC - It's Not About You - Signs & Symptoms of Trauma in School Age Kids	2 hours	Centerville Support/Training Group Bank St. Nazareth Church

Required Training Due Sept. 30th

In September 2014, Congress passed a new law establishing prudent parent standards throughout the United States. As part of this federal law, foster parents are now required to complete the Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard Training by September 30, 2016. **For additional information and to view the RPPS training video, [CLICK HERE](#).**

FALL 2016 CONFERENCE

Friday & Saturday, October 28 & 29
Marriott & Conference Center in Coralville

[VIEW CONFERENCE BROCHURE](#)

(REGISTER VIA MAIL)

[VIEW CONFERENCE ONLINE](#)

(REGISTER ONLINE)

Fun Indoor Activity



The two ingredients are 8 cups of all-purpose white flour and 1 cup of baby oil. May add food coloring if desired.