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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!

10 Things to Do Before Sending a Foster Child Back to School

Are you ready to send your foster children back to school next month? Here is a handy check list to help you send them back to school with less stress.

1. Health

- Check to see the date of your foster child's last physical. Make appointments for eye and dental.
- Make sure you have the child's immunization records and that they are up-to-date. You will need the immunization records in order to enroll any child in school.

2. Paperwork

- Upon enrollment you will find several forms to fill out . Information you may need: the child's immunization record, the child's past school name and address, Dr.'s contact information, case manager's contact information and who will be the emergency contact. A general permission from signed by the parent, guardian, or custodian may be kept on file at the child's school to authorize participation in field trips and other special activities if the school administrator will accept a "blanket" form as adequate authorization. The foster parent is NEVER to sign as the parent or guardian.

3. Know the Foster Child's Education Plan

Does the child have a IEP for special education, behavior, and or speech classes?

4. Practice Address and Phone Numbers

Children new to your home need to know this is for safety and for school. Make sure they know your full name, how to spell it correctly, and where you work.

- Practice writing the address and phone number.
- Have an index card in the child's backpack with needed information.

5. Practice the Route to School or to the Bus Stop

Show the child the route they are to take and make sure the route it is a safe route. Walk it with them. Practice such skills as crossing the street, yielding to traffic, stopping at stop signs, Do not assume that your child know these things. Practice, even if the child says they know. You may discover that in reality they don't know. Try making it a game instead of a test.

6. Attend Open Hour or Tour School Building

You and your child will be able to meet the teachers and tour the building at the open house.

7. Discuss Safe Rides.

Make sure the child knows who they can get into the car with and who they can not.

- Teach them to look for ID/name tags on people claiming to be social workers.
- Discuss who not to ride with. Include strangers and anyone you'd rather not have your child be alone with-we all have those people in our neighborhood.
- It may be difficult but you will also need to discuss getting into cars with birth parents. If the children have supervised visitation or no visitation, the children should not get into a car with birth family.

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NEWS FROM YOUR IFAPA PEER LIAISON

8. Practice Opening Lockers

This is such an embarrassing thing for kids, being late to class or gym because they can't open their lockers. Use the time you have at enrollment or at the open house to practice. Get a lock at home and practice.

9. Be Involved with the Child's Education and the School

This is great for foster parents too. Volunteer to be a room parent and help plan holiday parties for the child's class. If you don't have time to attend school parties, bake cookies or send a bag of candy. Go on field trips or volunteer to come in and read to the kids. Most kids love to see their parents or care givers being involved in their activities.

10. Create a cover story.

A cover story is something that the kids can tell others about why they are now in your home. Using a cover story is not about telling lies, it 's about keeping information private that could be used to tease and harass. By doing so we are trying to create the best possible environment for our foster children.

Adapted from About.com/foster care



IFAPA's Adventureland Fun Day (For all of Iowa's Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Families)

Saturday, August 23, 2014

Adventureland Park, Altoona

All ticket orders must be received by IFAPA, no later than Friday, Aug. 15.

Flyer, ticket prices and registration form at www.ifapa.org



Allison Area, Black Hawk and Marshall
Support Groups are on summer break
and will resume in September!



Happy 4th of July!