

NEWS FROM YOUR 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



www.ifapa.org



KIDS & CHORES

TO PAY or NOT TO PAY??



Paying kids for chores is one of the most hotly debated parenting topics right now. The logic behind tying allowances to chores is that since grown-ups get paid to do their jobs, we should pay kids to do *their* jobs—in this case, everyday household chores. If they don't do their jobs, the children don't get paid, therefore teaching them that a good work ethic shall be rewarded and that a bad work ethic will get you nothing. Paying kids for doing chores around the house is preparing them for the real world and life as an adult outside the family.

But there is a hole in that argument: Unless it is their profession to do so, adults—parents—don't get paid for doing things around the house like taking out the trash, making beds, and washing dishes. These things are just good life skills, tasks that need to be done day to day whether you are a child or a grown up.

Parents *do* need to teach their kids financial responsibility and that money is earned, not just doled out once a week. Still, many child-development experts agree that tying a child's allowance to chores can be a slippery slope.

Keeping up the house is a team effort. Teach your kids that chores are part of being a family team. You all live in the house, you all contribute to caring for the house. Consider what happens if a child doesn't feel like feeding the dog one day. The child will may think, "*oh well, they will just reduce my allowance*", but who is going to feed the dog? What if no one feeds the dog? Who is responsible for the animal? What does the child learn by not feeding the dog? Mom or dad will do it anyway? Rather than docking allowance the child could learn a valuable lesson about personal responsibility. Instead of saying "*well there goes your allowance*" say "*We are a family. We are a team. Let's figure this out together because we aren't going to let the dog go unfed.*"

As your child gets older he is capable of doing more. Will he start demanding more money for the chores? Consider mowing the lawn. What if the neighbor offers your son more to mow their lawn? Do you have to raise what you are paying your child? Should he be able to mow the neighbor's yard and not his own? By paying children for chores with an allowance, you may be teaching your kids the value of work, but you'll also be sending the message that work isn't worth doing unless they're getting paid for it.

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There are times when it would make sense to pay kids for chores. Most financial and *child-development* experts agree across the board that it's a fine idea to pay children money for extra jobs that are outside their normal set of chores, such as washing windows, washing the car or helping to clean out the garage — especially if the child is saving for a big item.

Susie Walton, master instructor at Peace In Your Home who has taught the Redirecting Children's Behavior course since 1991, says "If a kid wants to buy something that's a bit more expensive and that might take a while for him to save up for with the allowance he's getting, you can make a list of optional jobs he can do to earn a quick \$2 here and there. So when he wants that bigger thing of Legos that costs more than he has, you can just refer him to that list to help him along."

Offering odd jobs that are outside the list of normal everyday must-do tasks can give opportunities for children and teens to earn a little more money aside from their regular allowance. This may even foster an entrepreneurial spirit to think outside of the box to earn money.

For parents who are concerned that their children won't learn the value of a dollar if the allowance isn't tied to household chores, note that there are still plenty of money management skills to be learned from a straight allowance (meaning a set amount of money given weekly or monthly, not dependent on chores). Depending on the age, kids can be made responsible for paying for their own toys, snacks, mall excursions—even cell phone/texting bills. Some parents even require that kids set aside a percentage of their allowance toward savings.

No matter which allowance route you take in parenthood, kids will feel empowered by being able to handle their own money.

Resource: by Pamela Laney via www.peaceinyourhome.com

JOIN US:

IFAPA Legislative Breakfast

Thursday, March 12, 2015 (7am-9am)
State Capitol Building – Des Moines
Legislative Dining Room – Lower Level

2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- *Special Needs: Continued Support of Foster Care, Kinship Care & Subsidized Adoption Programs
- *Healthy & Happy: Improved Access to Health Care for Iowa's Children in Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Families
- *Building Families: Continued Funding for Training, Support, & Respite Care for Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Families
- *Stability of Foster Care Placements: Continued SUPPORT for the certified respite project

PLANNING FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS

PREPARING YOUTH FOR ADULT LIVING, LEARNING AND WORKING

A **FREE** MINI CONFERENCE
FOR PARENTS, YOUTH (13+) &
PROFESSIONALS

FIVE LOCATIONS

Saturday, March 28
DAVENPORT

Saturday, May 16
CEDAR RAPIDS

Saturday, April 18
COUNCIL BLUFFS

Saturday, June 13
WATERLOO

Saturday, May 2
DES MOINES

Class Times: (8:30am-2:00pm)

FREE REGISTRATION

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH

\$25 TRAVEL STIPEND PER FAMILY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
THE COMPLETE REGISTRATION
FORM VISIT IFAPA'S WEBSITE
AT WWW.IFAPA.ORG

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UPCOMING TRAININGS:

WESTERN SERVICE AREA #1

Date & Time	Name of Training	Credit	Location
Mar. 28, 2015 9am- 12:15pm	Connect the Dots: Emotions to Behaviors	3 hours	Sioux City Stoney Creek Inn 300 3rd St
Mar. 28, 2015 1:30pm- 4:45pm	How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk	3 hours	Sioux City Stoney Creek Inn 300 3rd St
Apr. 11, 2015 9am- 12:15pm	Through the Looking Glass: Life Through the Filter of Personality Disorders	3 hours	Sioux City Stoney Creek Inn 300 3rd St
Apr. 11, 2015 1:30pm- 4:45pm	Get Me Off This Roller Coaster: Coping Skills for Emotional Intensity Issues	3 hours	Sioux City Stoney Creek Inn 300 3rd St
Apr. 25, 2015 9am- 12:15pm	When Old Parenting Strategies Don't Work! Help Us Please!	3 hours	Spencer Dream Center 605 Grand Ave

*St. Patrick's Day
Jokes and Riddles
for Kids*

*Share some jokes with
your lil leprechauns*

Why do people wear shamrocks
on St. Patrick's Day?
(Real rocks are too heavy!)

Why can't you iron a four-leaf
clover?
*(Because you shouldn't press
your luck!)*

What do you call a fake stone in
Ireland?
(A sham-rock!)

What type of bow cannot be
tied?
(A rain-bow!)

Where can you always find
gold?
(In the dictionary!)

Why do frogs like St. Patrick's
Day?
*(Because they're already
wearing green!)*

Why did the elephant wear
green sneakers?
*(Her red ones were in the
wash!)*

What did the leprechaun do for
a living?
(He was a short-order cook!)

How can you tell if a leprechaun
is having a good time?
*(He is Dublin over with
laughter!)*

Looking for Support? Join a Support Group!

Hull Support Group – Hull
Plymouth County Support Group - LeMars
Oakdale Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group - Meridan
Moville Support Group - Moville
Sioux City Foster & Adoptive Support Group - Sioux City
Northwest Iowa Support Group - Spencer
Support Lunch Groups – Spencer, Sioux City, Sheldon and LeMars

To join a support group contact Chelle Bisenius at (712-
480-3737 or chelle.bisenius.pas@gmail.com) or me at 712-
451-6813 or tvandekamp@ifapa.org

