

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Josh Shipp aka "The Teen Whisperer" is a former at-risk foster kid turned teen advocate. Josh had a traumatic childhood. He was abandoned at birth, thrown into many different foster homes. Abused, addicted, and suicidal... Josh KNOWS what it means to be a teen in trouble. Thanks to caring adults Josh was able to triumph over the hardship, and has dedicated his life to helping kids and families succeed.

Josh talks directly to teens about topics that are crucial to success and often difficult to talk about. He talks about all these things in a way that's entertaining and grabs the attention of even the most difficult teen immediately. It's a message from someone who's been there and wants teens to succeed and parents to feel empowered.

[WATCH JOSH'S VIDEO ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS](#)

Find more Josh Shipp videos for teens and parents on [You Tube](#).

The Inevitable Hurt In Foster Care and Why It's Worth It

Written By: Anna Futral

I was having a conversation with someone I had just been introduced to, after it was mentioned that we are foster parents to two little ones:

Her: Are you able to adopt them?

Me: Well, we are dual licensed as foster-to-adopt, so we can if it goes that way.

Her: Do you know yet if you will be able to?

Me: No, it's still too early in their case to tell.

Her: So you must really be keeping your hearts in check.

Me: No we fell head over heels long ago. We love these kids like crazy.

I don't really understand the common misconception that foster parents are not supposed to love fully...as if they are supposed to love just enough to cover logistics and amenities, but that's about all. [CONTINUE READING](#)

How to Apply for a Friends Grant?

To be considered for Friends funding, please complete an application and send it along with copies of receipts/invoices to the address listed on the application.

Applications that are received without receipts/invoices cannot be processed. Please allow at least 10 business days for applications to be reviewed. You will be notified in writing of the decision by IFAPA staff. Decisions will be made on an individual basis.

APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO AGE 13:

The maximum grant request limit for children age birth to age 13 is \$200 per child per fiscal year. IFAPA's fiscal year runs July 1 - June 30.

[FRIENDS APPLICATION](#) (WORD)

[FRIENDS APPLICATION](#) (PDF)

Raise Your Hand! Lower Your Voice!

How to Manage Bad Behavior

Has the principal already called? Teacher sent home notes? Your behavior-modification strategies fizzled? That's because the key to improving behavior at school is understanding why misbehavior happens, and responding in a way that makes sense to our kids' ADHD brains.

The key to changing behavior at school is understanding why it happens, and responding in a way that makes sense for children with ADHD. Use these strategies to get started.



ADHD is not the same for every child, but it can impact children's behavior in similar ways. To keep kids from acting out, teachers have to figure out what triggers kids' bad behaviors and adjust the system of classroom behavior management accordingly. This is no small task but read on for some proven methods for avoiding interruptions, improving social skills and bolstering self-esteem in the classroom.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Talking to Your Children About Their Birth Parents

Most children who have been adopted wonder about their birth parents—at least to some extent.

For parents, the challenge comes in knowing when to bring up birth parents and how to answer tough questions. Should you bring it up? Should you wait for your child to come to you?

If you wait for your child to bring it up, it might not happen. They might be afraid of hurting your feelings or they might not know it's okay to talk about birth families. While the subject can seem scary, talking about birth parents with your child can actually reinforce the bond you share and strengthen your relationship.

Often parents fear that the conversation will lead to their child becoming more interested in the birth parent and less interested in their family. Ultimately, it can be a way for your child to fully understand how they came to be yours.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

The Teen Cell Phone Agreement

Concerned About Cell Phone Issues with Your Teen?

The Teen Cell Phone Agreement is designed to create an open line of communication between you and your child regarding their cell phone. The goal is to help your child become a well rounded person who can coexist with technology, NOT be ruled by it.

You probably find yourself in one of two situations:

- They already have a cell phone and you haven't had clear rules in place. Expect the conversation to be a bit tougher here. They will feel you are setting the ground rules after the game has begun. Admit that you made a mistake (we all do) and that because you care about them (which you do), that's why we are doing this.
- You're about to give them a cell phone.

[VIEW TEEN CELL PHONE CONTRACT](#)