

NEWS FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON

NOVEMBER 2016



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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!

How Can We Work With Birth Families During The Holidays?



Ask children about their experiences and try to incorporate some of their traditions. The children placed in your home may miss some activities that they experienced with their family or in a previous placement.



If possible, ask your child's family members about their holiday traditions and customs. Ask about their beliefs and observances. Although you may feel stretched at the holidays, try to coordinate schedules with the birth families. This gives the children a chance to share what is familiar while experiencing new traditions.



This is a good time for the youth in your home to make small gifts and send cards to their birth families or old neighbors and friends.



This is a time when many children feel conflicted feelings about their birth families and worry about them. It is a good time to let the young person know that it is okay for them to be safe and cared for even if their family struggles. Reassure them if you can, about the safety and care of their birth family.

<http://fosteringperspectives.org/fpv15n1/holidays.htm>

Religious Differences & the Holidays

The holidays can be tough for foster families. Children in care miss their families and their traditions, while at the same time they may want to be part of the activities of the foster family. When there's a religious difference between the child's family and the foster family, things can become even more complicated.

Religion can be a sensitive issue. Legally, birth parents have the right to choose their children's religion or lack of religion. Placement of their child in foster care does not take away this right.

Of course, most foster parents try to respect the culture and religious customs of the children in their care. But what does this mean when it comes to religion?

The answer lies in establishing open lines of communication among foster parents, DHS, and the birth family. If your agency knows how you feel about religious issues (for example, if prayer makes you feel uncomfortable, or if you feel compelled to convert children and their families), it will make informed placement decisions. If you haven't already done so, consider talking with your social worker about how religion affects your role as a foster parent.

This communication works both ways. The more you know about the religion, traditions, and preferences of birth families, the easier it will be for you to act in a way that honors their beliefs.



www.ifapa.org

NEWS FROM YOUR IFAPA PEER LIAISON

CURRENT NEWS

November is National Adoption Month!

To find local celebrations, go to:
<http://www.ifapa.org/events/default.asp>

Plan Ahead-Register Now!

IFAPA WILL NOT BE OFFERING TRAININGS IN DECEMBER

*Ifapa's current training schedule is available online at ifapa.org

SUPPORT GROUPS

Renew Support Group

Cornerstone Church-Ames

*Thurs. November, 17th 6:15-7:45p.m.

*Jen & Jason Lee are leading the group through the book, "From Fear To Love" By Bryon Post

*Register at -

https://cornerstonelife.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=1122

*For more details: Contact Jason Lee(515-460-5048 or leejasond@gmail.com)

Allison Area Foster Parent Support Group

Vineyard Community Church

319 West Bremer Ave, Waverly

* November 14th, 6:00-6:30 Dinner served

*6:30- 7:30: Adults will participate in an open discussion Round-table

*Childcare for children 5 and under 6:30-7:30

*"Yoga class" for children 6 +(Please bring a beach towel)

*For more details contact Megan : aafpsg@gmail.com, 319.241.0623, or www.aafpsg.org

HOLIDAY FALL FOOD!

BERRY AND CREAM CHEESE MONKEY BREAD



Ingredients:

2 (11 ounce) tubes Pillsbury Thin

Crust Pizza Dough

½ cup strawberries

½ cup blueberries

3 T. sugar

1 (8 oz.) pkt. cream cheese, soft

Directions:

Mix berries, cream cheese, and 1 T.

sugar in food processor or bowl

until smooth (1 - 2 mins). Lightly

flour surface, and roll out both

tubes of Pizza Dough, side by side.

Spread dough with the cream

cheese mixture, leaving a 2-inch

border. Roll up both dough sections

into a log. Trim off ends of each roll

and cut rolls into 15 1-inch pieces.

Place dough, touching, into

greased round pan. Sprinkle with

remaining 2 T. sugar. Bake @ 350

for 35 mins. Until light brown on

top.

