

NEWS SEPTEMBER 2016

FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON



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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!



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!

NEWS FROM YOUR IFAPA PEER LIAISON

Find a
Support
Group
Near You



SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION:

ALLISON AREA SUPPORT GROUP:

Vineyard Community Church, 319 W Bremer Ave, Waverly
Meets monthly on the 2nd Monday, Meal at 6:00 p.m., Meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Groups meet September-May

Free childcare offered for ages 0-5/Structured activity for ages 6+

Contact Persons: Tammy Faux (319-610-9115 or tammy.faux@wartburg.edu)

Kate Haberman-Foelske (khaberman@monarchtherapyservices.com)

Gwen Timmerman (319-883-3594 or gtimmerman@ifapa.org)

September Meeting: Roundtable discussion & Board introductions

October Meeting: 1 hr training-Current Street Drug Trends (Nora Kurtovic, Pathways)

BLACK HAWK COUNTY SUPPORT GROUP:

Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 W 8th St, Waterloo

Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (see special time for September meeting below)

Groups meet September-May, 2 hrs training

Free childcare offered

Contact Person: Gwen Timmerman (319-883-3594 or gtimmerman@ifapa.org)

September Meeting: 6-8 p.m.=Confidentiality & 8:00-8:30 p.m. RPPS video

October Meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m.=6 Principles of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

MARSHALLTOWN AREA SUPPORT GROUP:

New Hope Church, 3901 S Center St, Marshalltown

Group meets 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Status of group will be discussed at meeting

Contact Person: Pam Bradshaw (515-291-1292 or pbradshaw@yss.ames.ia.us)

September Meeting: Roundtable discussion & RPPS video

****PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE ARE OTHER FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS IN THE BENTON, BLACK HAWK, BREMER, BUTLER, GRUNDY, MARSHALL, AND/OR TAMA COUNTIES SO THEY CAN BE ADDED TO THE IFAPA.ORG WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER****



REASONABLE & PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD ON-LINE TRAINING

**DEADLINE ENDS SOON...
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

In 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.](#)**



IFAPA FALL CONFERENCE

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 28 & 29
Marriott & Conf. Center in
Coralville

SIGN UP AT WWW.IFAPA.ORG



PLEASE MAKE SURE IFAPA HAS YOUR UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, & E-MAIL. CONTACT YOUR PEER LIAISON WITH NEW INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!