

NEWS

September, 2016

FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON



JOHN SMITH

IFAPA Peer Liaison

How to Contact Me:

877-305-3396

712-665-4011

jsmith@ifapa.org

**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

Dear Parents:

School is back in session for the kids at the Smith House and with that is “one-to-one computers”! I have been told that they are going to do a lot of school-work with these computers, but that must just be happening at school, because I haven’t seen a lot of it here at home yet!

Social media is a wonderful tool. It connects all of us around the county, state, country and world. We can find something in common with another person who lives in Mexico or Canada. We can find a fan of the same sports team who might live right down the street and you never would've known it. But texting, Facebook, twitter and g-mail alienate us from our families more than we actually think it does.

Honestly, I sometimes truly wish that ‘tools’ such as the iPhone (or any smartphone), laptops, iPads, tablets, etc. hadn’t been invented. Sure, they’re great, incredibly useful, and fun time-killers. But the way teenagers abuse them, and turn them into mini social control rooms is frankly awful.”

I think one of the biggest problems with the social media craze is that people are becoming more and more addicted to using it! It is the number one time waster at work, in school and at home. And if the truth is to be known, I may be just as guilty as the kids!

In our homes, if we are to protect our kids, we need to do a couple things:

- **Take Charge** – Set the ground rules for when your kids can go online, what sites they can visit, and how many texts they can send a month, so everyone is on the same page
- **Monitor** – Supervise the internet use. If you can see what your kids are doing, they are less likely to get in trouble. There is no need for your child to take their device into the bathroom, basement or to bed with them. Nothing good can happen when they are out of site with their device.
- **Communicate** – Talk to your kids! Our kids might not tell us everything, but that doesn’t mean we can ask! Get involved so that you’re not the last to know.

I believe that we are in a period of time with kids that may forever change human relationships. It is our duty as parents to see the connection between the development of our youth and this great experiment.

Take Care & God Bless – IFAPA John

DATES ON DECK

TOPIC - [It's Not About You - Back to School Transitions](#)

Sept. 6, 2016 7pm-9pm	2 hours credit Support, network and supper (on your own) from 6:00 to 7:00pm, Training starts at 7:00pm	Carroll Pizza Ranch, 425 US 30	West Central Iowa Support Group John Smith 877-305-3396
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TOPIC - [It's Not About You - Trust and Resiliency - Repacking the Suitcase](#)

Sept. 19, 2016 5:30- 8:30pm	2 hours credit Support, network and supper (on your own) from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Training starts at 6:30pm	Denison Pizza Ranch, 510 IA-39	Denison Area Foster/Adoptive Parent Support Group John Smith 877-305-3396
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TOPIC - [It's Not About You - Leaving Foster Care](#)

Oct. 4, 2016 7pm-9pm	2 hours credit Support, network and supper (on your own) from 6:00 to 7:00pm, Training starts at 7:00pm	Carroll Pizza Ranch, 425 US 30	West Central Iowa Support Group John Smith 877-305-3396
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(Check the IFAPA website www.ifapa.org and go to trainings, or contact me if you need info about any classes or available trainings)

And, don't forget, if it has been three years since you last took an approved **CPR & First Aid training or five years since you took your **Mandatory Child Abuse** training, you will need to complete these before you can be re-licensed. If you can't remember, touch base with your IKN or DHS licensing workers; they will know!

FOSTER PARENT MILESTONES

Please join me in thanking the following foster parents for their years of service to Iowa's children as this month marks their renewal anniversary. Thank you for your years of dedication!

- 20+ Years: Marion & Jerry Dencklau
- 15+ Years: Collette & Kenneth Huntley
- 10+ Years: Sharon & Charles Lange
- 5+ Years: Jen & Ed Witt; David & sally Carlson; Rebecca & Tony Mahlberg
- ONE YEAR: Kim & Brian Beidler; Rachel & Drue Chandler; Rachel & Simon Kalpin; Alisa & Ben Kolars, Maria & Brian



From My Side of the Desk!

Summer is over! I thought that would mean that I had more time on my hands. Not the Case! At our house it doesn't seem like we have more time, but LESS! By the time I booked all my dates and the school dates into my calendar, I don't have much time left! For that reason alone, I need to make sure that I **make the time I have with the kids count!** Make sure that we find the time to ask how their day went, who are the kids they are playing with and if anything is bugging them. Get into a routine so the kids know they have you for a certain time of their day; whether it breakfast, supper or bedtime! It is too easy to let an electronic device be there for the child when an adult is what they need!

AND REMEMBER: I am just an email/phone call away. I am here for you! If you ever have a question, concern or celebration, give me a call. The conversations which I have with other parents are the best part of my day!

-IFAPA John