

# NEWS FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON



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IFAPA Peer Liaison

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Connect with me on Facebook. Email me to find out more.

**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

## Fall Conference 2016

Friday & Saturday, October 28 & 29, 2016  
 Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
 300 East 9th Street, Coralville

To make room reservations, call: 319-688-4000

The conference room rates are \$89 per night (taxes not included). A block of rooms has been reserved for Thursday, October 27th; Friday, October 28th and Saturday, October 29th. Please be sure to mention you are attending the IFAPA Conference to receive this special rate. Only a limited number of rooms will be reserved for the IFAPA Conference so they are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hotel reservations made after Friday, Sept. 23rd will be given the current room rate being offered by the hotel.

**SEPTEMBER TRAININGS:** Call IFAPA at 800-277-8145 ext. 1 or [COMPLETE OUR REGISTRATION FORM\\*](#)

Date & Time	Name of Training & Trainer	Credit	Location
Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016	<b>Both</b> the Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training and CPR & First Aid <b>CLASSES ARE FULL</b>	3 hrs 4 hrs	Ankeny
Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016 (9am-4:30pm)	<b>NEW TOPIC!</b> <a href="#">Family Matters - Working with Birth Families in the 21st Century</a> (Mike McGuire)	6 hrs	Carroll Carrollton Inn 1730 US Hwy 71 N
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 (9am-12:15pm)	<a href="#">Love is All You Need? (Cultural Responsive Parenting)</a> (Tammera Bibbins, MSW)	3 hrs	Ankeny IFAPA Training Cntr 6864 NE 14th Suite 5
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 (1:15pm-4:30pm)	<a href="#">Why Can't They Stop: Addiction and New Drug Trends</a> (Bobbie Jo Sheridan, LBSW)	3 hrs	Ankeny IFAPA Training Cntr 6864 NE 14th Street Suite 5
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 (9am-12:15pm)	<a href="#">Calming the Trauma Storm</a> (Marty Wallace, LMHC)	3 hrs	Sioux City Stoney Creek Inn 300 3rd Street Nebraska Room
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 (1:15pm-4:30pm)	<a href="#">Time to Get the Schools on Board</a> (Marty Wallace, LMHC)	3 hrs	Sioux City Stoney Creek Inn 300 3rd Street Nebraska Room
Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 (9am-4:30pm)	<a href="#">Counteracting the Effects of Disrupted Attachment with Love, Attunement &amp; Play</a> (Doreen...)	6 hrs	Ankeny IFAPA Training Cntr 6864 NE 14th Street

## Make School Lunch Time FUN!



- Get creative
- Keep lunches colorful
- Add a special note of encouragement
- Keep a variety of breads, lunch meats, and cheeses on hand.