

AUGUST 8, 2017



Advance Planning Eases Return to School for Kids in Foster Care

Summer is sublime, but for frazzled parents of rambunctious school-age kids, September may be starting to look like an oasis of calm. Planning and preparing now can ease the turbulence of back to school. Here are some things you can do to get ready for the transition.

- **Medical** – Check the child’s records for a vaccination form, date of last physical, and other info your school district requires. If the child is new to your home, you need to use the child’s doctors if possible. If this is not possible, consider scheduling a “getting to know you” appointment with your doctor. If the child is newly placed in your home and you do not have their immunization information, ask the placement caseworker to check the IDPH immunization registry to see what immunizations the child has received. The child’s parent is another resource.
- **Paperwork** – Make sure you have the name, address and phone number of the last school the child attended, plus other required information. Your neighborhood school staff is likely in the office this month and eager to guide you. Remember that you cannot sign school information as the child’s parents need to sign any needed school forms. Consult with the child’s placement caseworker if you have any questions.
- **Education plans** – Ask your child’s placement caseworker what, if any, education plans or services the child had before. Confirm that the school registrar and counselor have what they need for the child.
- **Lifesaver card** – Write up a small card with essential info the child may not yet have memorized, like your address and phone number, his bus number, the name and number of a helpful relative or neighbor in case of emergency. Make a couple of copies and give him one for his backpack and one for his pocket. Laminate the cards if he has memory or attention problems and might need to carry them around a while. If he tends to lose things, pin one to the inside of his backpack, but make sure it is not visible to others (for safety).
- **Take a tour** – If the child is bussing, biking, or walking to school, practice the route until he is comfortable. If you drive the child to school and pick them up from school let the child know who is okay to do this if there’s an emergency and you need someone else to take them or pick them up from school. Also, give the school your name and the names of anyone else who is approved to drive the child to school and pick them up after school. Assure your child knows that they know they should never talk to strangers nor accept a ride home from a stranger. Tour the school. Visit the classroom. Play on the playground. Practice opening his locker.
- **Meet ‘n’ greet** – Attend open houses and orientations. Invite the child’s parents to do this with you. Especially if you talk with the teacher and school secretaries so they know the child and have a general idea of his strengths and challenges. If he’s willing, have the child do the talking.
- **Prepare his story** – Help the child come up with a way to describe his living situation that he is comfortable with. He needs to know that his story is private and he has a right to keep unpleasant details from other children.

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IFAPA’s Annual Foster and Adoptive Families Appreciation Day at Adventureland Park in Altoona Saturday, August 19,

DEADLINE: All ticket orders must be submitted no later than Monday, Aug. 14th.

On Saturday, August 19th, IFAPA will be hosting our annual day of fun at Adventureland for foster, adoptive and kinship families. Tickets are available to purchase through IFAPA at discounted prices—only \$24 for foster/adoptive and kinship families. You can find the order form on IFAPA’s website: www.ifapa.org or [click here to buy tickets online](#).

Payment Methods Accepted—Families can order their Adventureland tickets online and pay by credit card. If you plan to pay with a credit card, all ticket orders/payments must be completed through the link on IFAPA’s website (no credit card orders will be accepted over the phone or in-person). Families who wish to order their tickets and pay with a check or money order, can mail in or drop off the registration / ticket order form with their payment.

FREE BOOKMARK!



Regardless of the type of family situation they live in, children who do not live with their birth parents deal with unique issues. These issues may affect a student's school performance.

This bookmark was developed to provide parents and youth with information about issues that impact children those issues might have on classroom learning. Information and suggestions on how educators can assist and advocate for these students are also included.

To receive a copy (or multiple copies) of this 2-sided bookmark, please email your name and address to Phyllis at ppierce@ifapa.org or call 515-289-4225.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

Understood.org has information on several aspects of Preparing for Kids' IEP Meetings [Click here](#) to find information on the following:

- How to Organize Your Child's IEP Binder
- The IEP Meeting: An Overview
- Checklist: What to Bring to the IEP Meeting
- 5 Important Things to do Before, During and After an IEP Meeting
- The IEP Team
- Legal FAQs About the IEP Meetings

Help Your Child Get Organized

Most kids generate a little chaos and disorganization. Yours might forget books at school, leave towels on the floor, or fail to finish projects once started. You'd like them to be more organized and to stay focused on tasks, such as homework. Is it possible?

Yes! A few kids seem naturally organized, but for the rest, organization is a skill learned over time. With help and some practice, kids can develop an effective approach to getting stuff done. And you're the perfect person to teach them, even if you don't feel all that organized yourself! For kids, all tasks can be broken down into a 1-2-3 process. To learn about this simple process, visit KidsHealth.org.

Top 10 Homework Tips



Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in homework - here are ways to help. [VIEW HOMEWORK TIPS](#)

Check Out the FOSTER FUNDS Grants For Kids in Foster Care Age 14 and Older

Foster Care Scholarships for children 14 years of age and older in state paid foster care (family foster care, group foster care, supervised apartment foster care and shelter care) and are living in Iowa will be available again in fiscal year 2018. Youth and Shelter Services (YSS) through the Iowa Foster Care Youth Council Contract which sponsors the AMP Program will now be administering these funds. Each eligible child will be allowed up to \$300 to be used for the extras that are not covered through foster care payments. Examples of acceptable use of these funds include: extra-curricular activities (class trip-fees, a summer camp, band, chorus, athletics, etc.); educational expenses related to significant events and occurrences for adolescents such as: senior pictures, prom, class ring, yearbook, etc.; and other such expenses which would benefit adolescents in foster care but are not covered by the foster care or Medicaid program.

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the application form.