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Sesame Workshop Launches New Initiative to Support Children in Foster Care

New videos, a storybook, and interactive activities feature Karli, a new Sesame Street Muppet in Foster Care, and her Foster Parents

(New York, NY) May 20, 2019—Sesame Workshop, the non-profit educational organization behind *Sesame Street*, announced today a new initiative to offer support to children, foster parents, and providers who serve foster families. The initiative features Karli, a young *Sesame Street* Muppet in foster care, and her “for-now” parents, Dalia and Clem. Children in foster care often experience many transitions—from their separation from birth parents, to their placement in foster care, to many moves—and the new resources are designed to help children in crisis cope along the way.

The initiative is part of the *Sesame Street in Communities* program, which provides free, easy-to-use resources for community providers and caregivers on a range of topics, including tough issues like family homelessness and traumatic experiences. The **free, bilingual resources** released today help caregivers and providers support children as they navigate the world of foster care, and they provide simple, approachable tools to help reassure children and help them feel safer.

The number of children in foster care in the US has grown for five consecutive years. In 2017, nearly 443,000 children spent time in foster care—6 out of every 1,000 children in the US. Every 47 seconds a child is abused or neglected, and children under age 6 made up nearly half of all child maltreatment cases in 2015. Over 40 percent of all children in foster care in 2016 were under age 6. In response to the growing need for resources to serve children in foster care, Sesame Workshop partnered with national experts on foster care and tested materials with both foster parents and providers. The resources include proven strategies to bolster relationships between caring adults and children and mitigate the effects of traumatic experiences.

“Fostering a child takes patience, resilience, and sacrifice, and we know that caring adults hold the power to buffer the effects of traumatic experiences on young children,” said **Dr. Jeanette Betancourt, Senior Vice President of US Social Impact at Sesame Workshop**. “We want foster parents and providers to hear that what they do matters—they have the enormous job of building and rebuilding family structures and children’s sense of safety. By giving the adults in children’s lives the tools they need—with help from the *Sesame Street* Muppets—we can help both grownups and children feel seen and heard and give them a sense of hope for the future.”

[Click Here to Read More and See their New Resources Available:](#)

ESSENTIALS FOR PARENTING TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed this free online resource designed for parents of children between the ages of 2 to 4 years old. This resource addresses common parenting challenges, provides positive parenting skills and techniques that can reduce parenting stress and help parents to handle their child’s misbehavior, and addresses frequently asked questions. It also includes helpful resources, including parenting videos, free print materials, and additional online resources.

[VIEW RESOURCES](#)

NEED HELP IMPROVING LITERACY SKILLS FOR YOUR PRESCHOOLERS?

[LITERACY TIPS FOR PRESCHOOLERS](#)

PARENTING A SCHOOL-AGE CHILD?

[VIEW SCHOOL-AGE RESOURCES](#)

PARENTING A TEENAGER?

[VIEW TEEN RESOURCES](#)

Aging Out: Voices From Those In The Foster Care System



Their stories begin with heartbreak. A family unable or unwilling to care for them. Parents dead, addicted to drugs, absent.

About 400,000 children in the U.S. live in foster care, according to federal officials. Entry into the foster care system is meant to keep them safe, but the reality is often fraught with its own dangers and disappointments. *Los Angeles Times* photojournalist Robert Gauthier interviewed more than a dozen young men and women from the Los Angeles area who were on the verge of being emancipated from foster care or had recently aged-out of “the system.”

Many fight a daily battle to shed the label of “system kid.” Often they are ill-prepared to survive on their own, let alone succeed. They talked to *The Los Angeles Times* about their past, as well as their dreams for the future. Asked to describe themselves in one word, they answered “survivor,” “driven,” “adaptable.”

[VIEW AGING OUT VIDEO](#)

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE (AGE BIRTH TO 13)

The maximum grant request limit for children age birth to age 13 is \$200 per child per fiscal year. IFAPA’s fiscal year runs July 1 - June 30. These grant requests can be for swimming lessons, dance or gymnastics lessons, taikwondo, baseball registration fees, etc. Email IFAPA if you are curious as to whether an item is appropriate.

How to Apply for a Friends Grant?

To be considered for Friends funding, please complete an application and send it along with copies of receipts/invoices to the address listed below. Applications that are received without receipts/invoices cannot be processed. Please allow at least 2-3 weeks for applications to be reviewed.

[Click Here](#) to Get to The Friends Grant Page to download the Grant Application.

Should You Take a Foster Child With You on Family Vacation?



Whether or not foster parents should take their foster children with them on a family vacation can be a hot topic. Some foster families feel very strongly about taking foster children, stating that the kids are a part of the family, so should attend all family functions. Other foster families feel that summer vacations are a time to take a break and reconnect with their core family. I think there are some things to consider before making this big decision

How well do you know the child? If the child was recently placed in your home, it may not be wise to take the child with you on your family vacation. This is a pure judgment call on the part of the foster family and perhaps the social workers; just remember that a honeymoon period can last with some children from a few days to a few weeks. I think if the child has been with you less than 30 days, give it a lot of thought.

The child’s behaviors: This goes along with the first point – it’s important that you know the child well enough to be able to make an informed decision regarding behaviors. What overwhelms the child? Does the child have a habit of wandering off? Do you know the child’s fears? It’s important to be prepared when traveling with a child with difficult behaviors. Ask yourself how disappointed you and your family may be if the child’s behavior takes away from your family time together. Remember, you have not made a lifetime commitment to the foster child, but you have to your family.

[READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE](#)

**SAVE THE DATE
FOR IFAPA’S
ADVENTURELAND
FUN DAY
AUGUST 17, 2019
(Link for Tickets Available on
the IFAPA Website soon)**

