



Geauga County Job & Family Services Permanency Planning July 2008 Newsletter



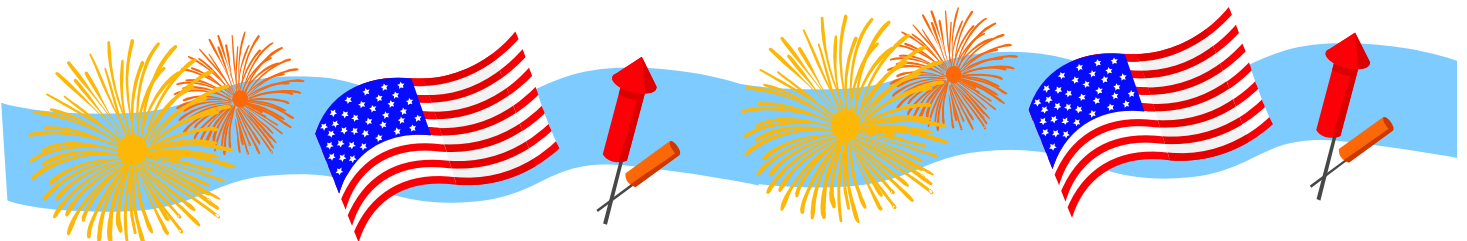
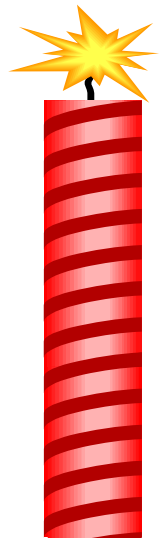
It is that time of year when families gather for picnics and parties. Those parties can often include fireworks. Did you know in the state of Ohio there are only a few types of consumer fireworks that are legal in the state? Here are the Ohio guidelines to keep in mind:

1. Trick and novelty fireworks (also known as **exempted 1.4G fireworks**) include items such as sparklers, snaps, glow snakes and smoke bombs can be purchased and used in the state, but some communities have passed laws that prevent these from being sold.
2. 1.4G fireworks are all illegal to be discharged in the state of Ohio. These are commonly referred to as consumer fireworks, including items such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles and fountains. Anyone over the age of 18 may purchase these items, but must sign a form stating that they will transport the fireworks outside the state of Ohio within 48 hours (or 72 for nonresidents of Ohio).
3. 1.3G Fireworks are also known as display or exhibitor fireworks and include items such as aerial shells that are fired from mortars. They can only be sold by a licensed manufacturer, wholesaler, or out of state shipper. They can only be sold to a licensed manufacturer, wholesaler or exhibitor. They can only be discharged by a licensed exhibitor in accordance with Ohio laws regarding exhibitions.

Safety Tips:

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Children should always be supervised when using any type of fireworks.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them!
- Always have water handy (a hose or bucket of water).
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water)
- Use common sense when using fireworks. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter, and the shooter should wear safety goggles.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated" shooter.
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type. (Sparklers burn at up to 1800°, hot enough to melt gold)
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives; they can kill you! Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community.
- Dispose of all fireworks by soaking them before placing them in a trash can.

These are from the National Council on Fire Work Safety.



Preparing a Youth for Independent Living

Turning 18 is an important milestone that many youth are not fully prepared for. Adulthood brings new responsibilities and consequences. Taking an active role in the preparation of this inevitable event will lend strength to the youth, be rewarding to the parents and assist them with the "letting go" process.

For Foster Parents, independent living skills and plans start when a child turns 16. The Agency Social Worker will work with the foster family and the youth on the child's Independent Living Plan. Here are good things for all parents of teenagers to keep in mind to work on with their children in their home or other children they may be involved with. The following are simple suggestions to assist parents with preparing their youth for independent living.

Topics For Life Skills Development

1. Obtain a copy of birth certificate & Social Security card.
2. Enroll in a continuing education program.
3. Obtain an identification with picture, i.e. driver's license or State I.D.
4. Secure medical insurance through employment or State of residents when eligible.
5. Secure a doctor & a dentist.
6. Start a file of important papers. This should include all medical records and copies of a resume.
7. Open a bank account and learn how to write and cash checks.
8. Develop a support system - solid friendships - a good counselor - join a recreation center - church group.
9. Become aware of weaknesses and strengths. Learn new ways to have fun and relieve stress.
10. Learn safe sex practices.
11. Find the best places to shop for food, clothing and furniture. Make use of coupons and sale ads.
12. Learn how to use resources such as telephone books, libraries and maps.
13. Learn bus system/obtain information about driver's license, auto insurance, how to purchase a car.
14. Many community colleges present an Independent Living Fair. Inquire and attend when presented.
15. Make a resume and application fact sheet - roll play job interviews with several different people.
16. Learn how to cook - safe handling of food & storage.
17. Learn how to clean rooms and wash clothes.
18. Learn how to budget money - do taxes.
19. Find an inexpensive place to live in a safe neighborhood.
20. Find a roommate to share expenses with - make sure it is someone you like and are compatible with.
21. Network with others already living independently.
22. Have the teen share their feelings with a peer, an adult, counselor, teacher, etc. about going out of their own.

Online Resources

Ohio automobile insurance laws

<http://www.ohioinsurance.org/pdf/undauto.pdf>

Money management for teens

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnsum06/>

A health guide for America's teens

http://www.adolescenthealth.org/Health_Guide_for_Americas_Teens.pdf

Independent living assessments and tools

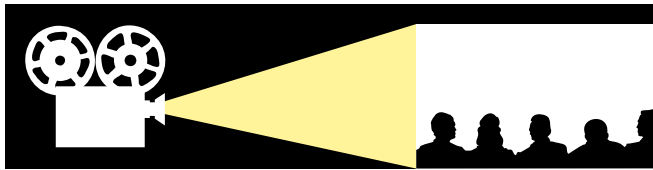
<http://www.caseylifeskills.org/>

Casey Life Skills resources (many are free)

http://www.caseylifeskills.org/pages/res/res_ACLSAGuidebook.htm#2

An overview of what a college education means

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/Prepare/pt1.html>



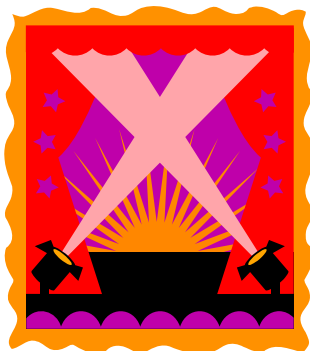
“Child Spotlight of the Month”

GREG

Enclosed with this month’s newsletter is a flyer for a child that is looking for an adoptive family. Could that family be you? Or do you know someone who might be able to provide the forever family that Greg is looking for? Take a look and let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in adopting Greg.

Did you know July . .

- is blueberries month
- is family reunion month
- is National Grilling Month
- is National Ice Cream Month
- is National Hot Dog Month
- is National Make a Difference to Children Month
- 13-19 is National Therapeutic Recreation Week
- 14-20 is National Parenting Gifted Children Week
- 25-30 is Scrabble Week
- 4 is Independence Day
- 7 is Chocolate Day
- 15 is gummi worm day
- 20 is National Lollipop Day
- 27 is Parents Day

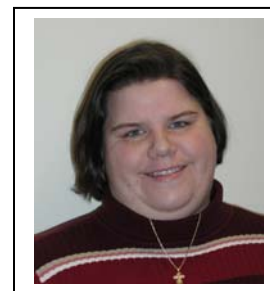


This month we are introducing two more important staff of the Agency that you may have contact with.

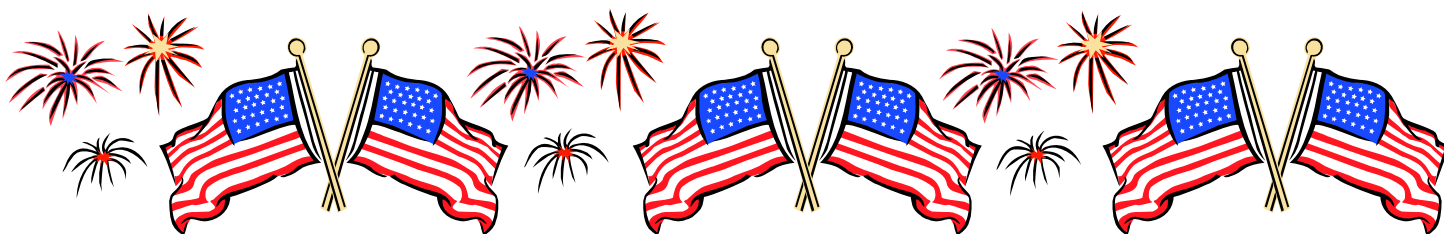
Now Presenting: Danette Richards & Rebecca Calabrese

Danette Richards, MPA: Danette is probably a face that most of you know, as she is one of the Social Worker’s on the Permanency Planning Team. Danette has been an employee of Geauga County Job & Family Services for the past six years. Prior to this, Danette worked as a Social Worker in the Ongoing Department of Lake County Department of Job and Family

Services for over five years. Danette has an Undergraduate Degree in Individual & Family Studies from Kent State University, and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Cleveland State University. Danette is very dedicated to serving the Foster/Adoptive Families and Children of Geauga County!



Rebecca Calabrese: Rebecca has worked at Geauga County JFS since March of 2005 on the Permanency Planning Team. Prior to coming to Geauga County she was employed at Wood County Department of Job and Family Services as a Children Services Assessment Worker, investigating cases of abuse and neglect, and an Ongoing Worker, helping birth parents and children reach the ultimate goal of reunification. Rebecca has also worked in Income Maintenance determining eligibility for medical, cash and food assistance. In her spare time she enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her family and friends.



TRAINING REMINDERS:

- ❖ Remember training sessions are for adults only. Unfortunately there is no child care available to families at training sessions, please make child care arrangements for your children prior to coming to training.
- ❖ Please set all cell phones and pagers to vibrate before the training begins. If you are going to take a call during the training sessions, please excuse yourself and answer it in the lobby.
- ❖ Please be on time for all trainings. There is a state **15 minute** rule that we all must adhere to. If you miss more than 15 minutes of a training then you cannot get credit for it. This includes arriving late, leaving early, coming back from breaks late, or taking a call during the training.
- ❖ If you are interested in signing up for trainings @ Geauga County JFS please call to register at least a week in advance so that we can accurately count the number of people attending. For most training we need a minimum of 6 people attending or else we have to cancel the training. Timely registration is greatly appreciated. Even if you are not currently a certified foster or adoptive family with us, you are still welcome to attend our trainings. All we ask is that you call to register.
- ❖ Want to know what other trainings are being held by other counties? Visit the Northeast Regional Training Center website at <http://www.ocwtp.com/neortc.htm> .



As we all try to preserve the environment, if you would rather have the monthly newsletter sent to you via email please let either your permanency planning worker know or contact Kathi Serafino, LSW at 440-285-9141 or griffk@odjfs.state.oh.us. We will then take you off the mailing list and add you to the email list for the newsletter.

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

SUCCESSFUL TRANS-CULTURAL PARENTING: DEALING WITH THE DYNAMICS OF DIFFERENCE – 937	
Date: Saturday, August 9, 2008	Time: 9:00 - 4:00 PM
Trainer: Angie Avery	Location: Geauga County JFS
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn practical strategies to empower successful families who have adopted or are fostering trans-culturally. • Foster parents will learn how to enhance cultural connections. 	

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS – 928	
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2008	Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Trainer: Bert Nero	Location: Geauga County JFS
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn how to assist teens in assessing community resources. • Foster parents will understand the barriers facing independent living for teens. • Foster parents will learn concrete methods for helping teens move towards independence. 	

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS OF FOSTER CHILDREN – 929

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2008

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Trainer: Cynthia Wallis

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will review the primary stages and milestones of normal physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development in children.
- Foster parents will learn the potential negative effects of abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse on children's development and will recognize indicators of developmental delays or problems.

THE IMPACT OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT ON NORMAL DEVELOPMENT – 912

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Trainer: David Zidar

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will learn the role of abuse on child development.
- Foster parents will have a brief review of legal definitions of abuse and neglect.
- Foster parents will learn methods to help children learn new positive memories.
- Foster parents will learn the skills needed to better integrate with the treating therapist.

THIRD PARTY INVESTIGATIONS – 920

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2008

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Trainer: Janice Lilac-Powell

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will learn about the increased potential for allegations.
- Foster parents will become familiar with the investigation process.
- Foster parents will explore the difference between a rule violation and a third party investigation.

BEFORE YOU TAKE THE FIRST DRINK: PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN – 939

Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2008

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Trainer: Katie Terry

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will understand some of the basic models of prevention and treatment of substance abuse.
- Foster parents will have a basic understanding of how to set up the home environment to prevent problems with alcohol or other drugs.
- Foster parents will understand some basic steps to teach children how to refuse alcohol or drugs when offered.

SEXUAL ABUSE - PO9 *

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2008

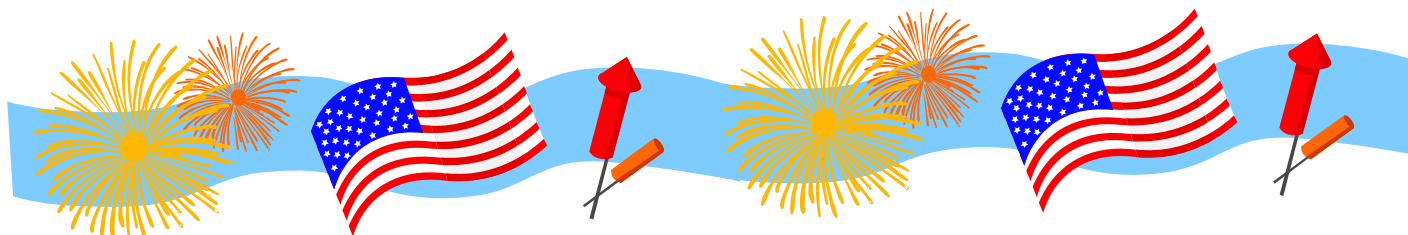
Time: 6:00-9:00pm

Trainer: Ann Bagley

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will be prepared to care for children who have been sexually abused and to become familiar with the effects of sexual abuse on children.
- Foster parents will learn appropriate sexual behavior.
- Foster parents will learn how to construct their family system to incorporate the placement of a sexually abused child to ensure the child's safety and success.



PERMANENCY ISSUES FOR CHILDREN – P11*

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2008

Time: 9:00-12:00 PM

Trainer: Ann Bagley

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will understand the three common parental responses to the difference between adoption parenting and birth parenting, and know the potential outcomes of each response.
- Foster parents will recognize common post adoption issues for both the parent and the child, including loss, identity, control and divided loyalties.
- Foster parents will understand the values of supportive services from the placing agency, or a post placement service provider, during the childhood and early adulthood of the adoptive child.

PERMANENCY ISSUES FOR FAMILIES – P12*

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2008

Time: 1:00-4:00 PM

Trainer: Ann Bagley

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will become aware of post adoption issues for both parent and child, including loss, identity, control and divided loyalties.
- Foster parents will learn the importance of talking to the child about adoption in a developmentally appropriate way, and handling difficult information regarding the birth family in a positive manner.
- Foster parents will become aware of resources such as adoption subsidies, and/or SSI, that provide material to the child in the adoptive family.

***The above three trainings (Sexual Abuse, Permanency Issues for Children, and Permanency Issues for Families) are required for pre-approved adoptive homes. Some counties require these trainings in pre-service. Please check with your county agency to see if you have already completed this training, and can earn hours toward your re-certification.**

**Geauga County Job & Family Services
Pre-Service Training Schedule
Trainer: Ann Bagley**

DATE	TIME	PRE-SERVICE TOPIC	COURSE NO.
Saturday, September 6, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Orientation and Overview	PS1
Saturday, September 6, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Teambuilding	PS2
Saturday, September 13, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Abuse and Neglect and Impact on Child Development	PS3
Saturday, September 13, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Attachment and Separation	PS4
Saturday, September 20, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Discipline	PS5
Saturday, September 20, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	PS6
Saturday, September 27, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Working with Primary Families	PS7
Saturday, September 27, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Effects of Caregiving on the Family	PS8

Lake County Job & Family Services
On-Going Training Schedule
 177 Main Street
 Painesville, Ohio 44077-3402
 440-350-4218 or 440-918-4218

OPENING THE DOOR TO INDEPENDENT LIVING - 928

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2008

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Trainer: Brian Lowery

Location: Lake County DJFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will learn to prepare youth for independent living.
- Foster parents will learn about barriers foster children face in obtaining employment.
- Foster parents will learn to use concrete methods for moving foster children toward independence.

**BEYOND TIME OUT: MANAGING BEHAVIOR OF MALTREATED
 PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN - 925**

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Trainer: Brian Lowery

Location: Lake County DJFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will learn the physical, cognitive and psychological development of preschoolers.
- Foster parents will learn the effects of maltreatment during this stage of development.
- Foster parents will learn positive parenting strategies for this stage of development.

MANAGING AND HEALING TRAUMA BASED CHILDREN - 921

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2008

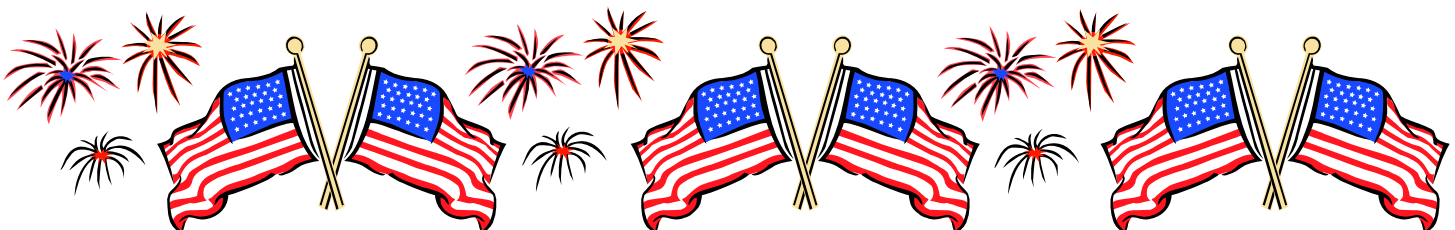
Time: 9:00 - 4:00 PM

Trainer: Beverly Richards

Location: Lake County DJFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will understand the "Stress Model" of behavior.
- Foster parents will be able to understand and intervene effectively with children's disruptive behavior.
- Foster parents will learn how to create a healing environment for children to thrive and grow.



Ashtabula County Children's Services Board
On-Going Training Schedule
 3814 C Court
 Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-1175
 440-998-1811

BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT I: HANDLING SURFACE BEHAVIORS WITH OPPOSITIONAL AND ACTING OUT CHILDREN - 914	
Date: Monday, August 11, 2008	Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Trainer: Brian Lowery	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will understand the dynamics of separation. • Foster parents will explore components of a therapeutic household, including modifying the environment, importance of routines, roles and attitudes of household members. • Foster parents will understand the ABC's of behavioral theory. • Foster parents will learn 10 teaching techniques for handling surface behaviors. 	

TOOLBOX FOR CHANGE: ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES - 921	
Date: Monday, August 18, 2008	Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Trainer: Katie Terry	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will understand the importance of a psychological/psychiatric assessment. • Foster parents will gain a basic understanding of the five classifications of psychotropic medications. • Foster parents will understand the uses of therapies and their efficacy in treating mental health issues. 	

OPENING THE DOOR TO INDEPENDENT LIVING - 928	
Date: Monday, August 25, 2008	Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Trainer: Brian Lowery	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn to prepare youth for independent living. • Foster parents will learn about barriers foster children face in obtaining employment. • Foster parents will learn to use concrete methods for moving foster children toward independence. 	

CARAMELS ARE ESSENTIAL: ATTACHMENT AND EARLY BRAIN TRAUMA - 912	
Date: Saturday, September 6, 2008	Time: 9:00 - 4:00 PM
Trainer: Francesca Muscari	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn about brain development of a traumatized child. • Foster parents will understand the impact of trauma, separation, loss and grief on a child. • Foster parents will understand what the "cycle of need" is and how it is important in the first two years of life. 	

CULTURE AND DIVERSITY ISSUES IN FOSTER CARE - 937

Date: Monday, September 22, 2008	Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Trainer: Brian Lowery	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will be introduced to the concept of cultural sensitivity. • Foster parents will be challenged to examine their own values and codes of conduct making an effort to learn more about these issues. • Foster parents will begin to recognize the unique opportunities inherent in a diverse foster family experience. 	

PREVENTING AND DE-ESCALATING CRISIS – P6A

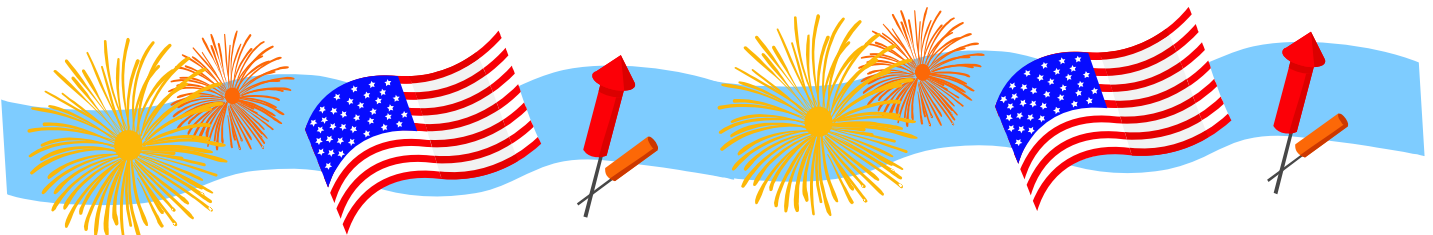
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008	Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Trainer: Emily Wetherill	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will become aware of the reasons children may have negative behavior. • Foster parents will become aware of the difference between punishment and discipline. • Foster parents will become familiar with non-physical discipline techniques, including natural and logical consequences and rewarding positive behavior. 	

SHAPING SELF-CONCEPT - 914

Date: Monday, September 29, 2008	Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Trainer: Francesca Muscari	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn win-win strategies for discipline. • Foster parents will learn techniques for repairing damaged self-esteem. • Foster parents will learn ways to assist children in their own problem-solving abilities. 	

**Ashtabula County Children’s Services Board
Pre Service Training Schedule**

DATE	TIME	PRE-SERVICE TOPIC	COURSE NO.
Monday, August 4, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Orientation and Overview of Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Care	PS1
Thursday, August 7, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Teambuilding	PS2
Monday, August 11, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Abuse and Neglect and Impact on Child Development	PS3
Thursday, August 14, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Attachment, Separation and Placement	PS4
Monday, August 18, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Discipline	PS5
Thursday, August 21, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	PS6
Monday, August 25, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Working with Primary Families	PS7
Thursday, April 28, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Effects of Caregiving on the Family	PS8
Monday, September 15, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Sexual Abuse	PS9
Thursday, September 18, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Permanency Issues for Children	PS 11
Monday, September 22, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Permanency Issues for Families	PS 12



GR EG



12/22/93

Meet Greg. He's a very intelligent 14 year old. Greg enjoys fishing, working, comedy, sports, gardening and swimming.

Greg likes to build things like houses and models. His hobbies include skateboarding, playing cards and board games.

Greg doesn't like being inside, arguing, smoking or drinking.

Greg would like to be part of a family that has a sense of humor. He also hopes that the family would have cats or other animals.

Greg would like to maintain contact with his birth family. His grandparents are taking the steps to become adoptive parents and are hoping to be an option for Greg.

If you feel Greg may be a good fit for your family please contact a Permanency Planning Worker at Geauga County Job and Family Services.

Agency: Geauga County Job and Family Services
Contact: Rebecca Calabrese
Phone number: (440) 285-1265

