



Geauga County Job & Family Services Permanency Planning September 2010 Newsletter

The Goal of Education. “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. . . Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of education.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we gear up for our kids to go back to school, here are some things to remember:

-Free or reduced school breakfast or lunch are available:

*If you are a foster parent, your foster child is automatically eligible.

*If a family receives TANF funds (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or Food Stamps, the child is eligible.

*If a child is enrolled in a Head Start or Even Start program on the basis of meeting the low-income guidelines, the child is eligible.

-If the child qualifies for free school lunches then the school district cannot charge the child any fees for any materials needed to participate fully in a course of instruction.

-Keep in contact with your child’s teacher, so that if your child start to struggle you can work with the teacher to resolve problems or issues.

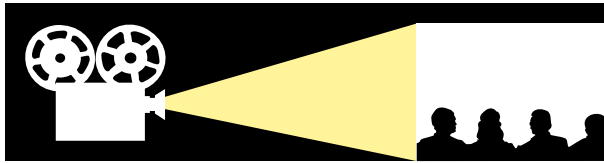
Respite Services: This is something that many families with children with special needs have asked for more information about. We know of two programs that families may be interested in getting more information about.

*The Akron YMCA, have what are called “Respite Weekends.” Because of the title and how the program is set up, we have been able to get approval thru the PASSS Program for funding. The respite weekends run once a month, from Friday night thru Sunday morning. To get more information, go to their website www.akronymca.org then click on camps, then click on rotary camps, then click on respite camps.

*BREATHE is a special needs respite program that provides a fun, safe evening out for families with special needs kids. This program is held monthly at Fellowship Bible Church in Chagrin Falls. For more information go to www.breathefellowship.com or call Candy Baroni at 216-299-1669.

Free Family Activity on September 11, 2010.

4th Annual Kids Safely Day from 11am- 2pm at Century Village in Burton, OH. For more information see flyer at the end of this newsletter.



“Child Spotlight of the Month”

BRANDON

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 Brandon is looking for? Take a look and let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in adopting Brandon.



The High Five Club is a way for foster and adoptive parents and social workers to give recognition to a child who is making progress, has gotten a reward in school or community or done something that is noteworthy for that child.

These can then be put in a child's lifebook. For most kids, seeing their name in print can motivate them to continue to do better. We would like you to contact your social worker or call Kathi Serafino to let us know what the child in your home has done to be recognized. The children will be recognized only by their first name to maintain confidentiality. This is open to foster and adoptive families in our community. If you have any questions please feel free to talk with your social worker or contact Kathi Serafino at 440-285-1219.

High Five Club:

A new year has begun so get you High Five Club nominations in soon.

TRAINING REMINDERS:

- ❖ **Please remember that if there are less than 5 people signed up for a training, a week prior to the training, the training will be cancelled.**
- ❖ 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 trainings 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.
- ❖ To register for a training you can either call the county directly or you can call the Regional Training Center at 1-866-294-3787.
- ❖ 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>
- ❖ **We are making some changes to the training section of the newsletter. Instead of listing all of the information for the training we are just going to list the title of the training, the time and the trainer. If you need to see the full description, you can go to Northeast Regional Training Center website at <http://www.ocwtp.com/neortc.htm>**

NOTICE!

NEORTC has notified the counties that the gates will only be open from 7:30am to 9:00am Monday through Friday, but will then be closed for the rest of the day. Entrance to the campus will ONLY be through the Entrance Gate at Martin & Talbot street and exit from campus will ONLY be through the Exit Gate at Clark Street. Foster parents and staff arriving on campus after 9:00am, in the evening or on the weekend will need to ring the buzzer on the reader panel to gain access to campus.

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

Tuesday, October 26, 2010: Educational Advocacy: Supporting Your Child's Success at School
Trainer: Ronna Johnson, Time: 6-9pm

Please note the following two trainings must be both attended to get credit. If you cannot commit to both days do not sign up.

Tuesday, November 9, 2010: Defusing Crisis Situations Safely and Sanely –Part One
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, November 16, 2010: Defusing Crisis Situations Safely and Sanely –Part Two
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9pm

Geauga County Job & Family Services Pre-service Training Schedule Trainers: Kathy & Brian Lowery

We have scheduled our fall pre-service for Tuesday's and Thursday's September 14 and ending October 21, 2010. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please have them give a worker a call to register.

Lake County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule 177 Main Street

**Painesville, Ohio 44077-3402
440-350-4218 or 440-918-4218**

Thursday, September 9, 2010: The Impact of Adoption on Birth Children in the Adoptive Home
Trainer: Ann Bagley, Time: 6-9pm

Monday, September 27, 2010: Relax, It's Only a Crisis
Trainer: David Zidar, Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, October 12, 2010: Living The Legacy: Dramatic Effects of Prenatal Drug Exposure
Trainer: Ronna Johnson, Time: 6-9 pm

Saturday, October 16, 2010: Lifebooks: A Journey Through Foster Care and a Tool for Adoption
Trainer: Cynthia Wallis, Time: 9am-12pm

Saturday, October 16, 2010: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: The Forgotten Child
Trainer: Cynthia Wallis, Time: 1-4pm

Tuesday, November 2, 2010: Promoting Self-Esteem and Well Being in Children
Trainer: Lonnie Helton, Time: 6-9pm

Wednesday, November 10, 2010: Successfully Blending Foster Families
Trainer: Sonji Gregory, Time: 6-9pm

Wednesday, December 8, 2010: Caution, Stop and Yield: Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Disorders
In Children and Adolescents
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9pm

**Lake County Job & Family Services
On-Going Training Schedule
Trainer: Anthony President**

They have scheduled the fall pre-service training starting October 4 and going thru November 17, 2010.

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

Tuesday, September 14, 2010: How To End Lying, Stealing & Defiance in Children
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, September 28, 2010: Self Injury: Assessment and Interventions
Trainer: David Zidar, Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, October 14, 2010: Impacting Visitation for Success
Trainer: Anthony President, Time: 6-9 pm

Saturday, October 23, 2010: Understanding and Building Attachment
Trainer: Trisha Martinek, Time: 9am -4pm

Thursday, October 28, 2010: You Can't Make Me: Managing Behavior of Maltreated School Age Children
Trainer: Brian Lowery, Time: 6-9 pm

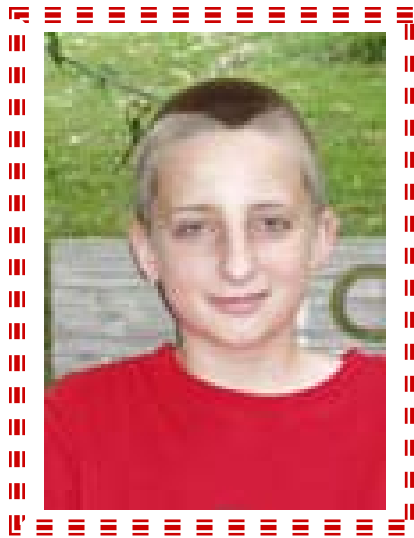
Tuesday, November 2, 2010: When Love is Not Enough –Session 5-Creating a Heart to Heart Connection
(Building Bonding and Trust)]
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9 pm

Monday, November 15, 2010: Dealing With the Impact of Early Sexual Trauma
Trainer: David Zidar, Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, December 2, 2010: The Openness Puzzle: 3-2-1 Contact
Trainer: Ann Bagley, Time: 6-9pm

Ashtabula County Children's Services Board
Pre-service Training Schedule
Trainer: Ann Bagley

They have scheduled the fall pre-service training for Tuesday nights from 6-9 starting September 14 and going thru November 30, 2010.



BRANDON

Birthdate: August 19, 1993

Brandon is a somewhat serious teen who has the ability to pull you in with his cute smile. He may initially appear to be shy but he warms up to people very quickly. Brandon likes to play with other kids and especially likes to play board games like Monopoly, Chess and Checkers.

Brandon's favorite things to do include fishing, tubing, sledding, playing video games and watching movies. Some of his favorite movies include X-Men, Harry Potter and the "Madea" movies which star Tyler Perry. Brandon also likes to keep his room clean and doesn't mind doing some chores, just not too many! One chore that Brandon is looking forward to doing someday is cutting the grass. Brandon would prefer to eat pizza, spaghetti, candied sweet potatoes and macaroni and cheese over anything else.

Brandon has mixed feelings about finding a forever family as he is very attached to his foster parents. Brandon stated that it would be very important for him to have a family that likes to play and he would also like there to be other kids in the home.

Brandon is currently living in a therapeutic level foster home so that he can learn how to manage his behaviors and live within a family environment. Brandon will not be able to live with a family with children that are younger than himself.

If you would like more information about Brandon please contact a Permanency Planning Worker at Geauga County Job & Family Services.

Agency: Geauga County JFS

Contact: Kelly Conroy

Telephone: (440) 285-9141



4th Annual Kids Safety Day

Sponsored by:
CASA for KIDS of Geauga County &
Friends of CASA for KIDS

When: *Saturday, September 11, 2010*
11am – 2 pm

Where: *Century Village, Rte 87 & 168*
Burton Village, OH



Free Event

Held on the beautiful grounds of Century Village near Burton square, this event is designed to provide information, interactive experiences and resources about keeping kids safe in many environments.

A red fire truck is shown in the background, partially obscured by text. The truck is a modern fire engine with various equipment visible on its side.

BIKE SAFETY
FIRE SAFETY SMOKEHOUSE
SAFETY TOWN
SAFETY EDUCATION DEMONSTRATIONS
OUTDOOR SAFETY
... and many more!

Entertainment for children also provided.

In the event of excessive ongoing rain, many activities will be held in the Bond building on the Century Village Grounds.

Made possible with donations by Friends of CASA and University Hospitals.

What is CASA for KIDS of Geauga County?

CASAs are court appointed special advocate volunteers appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers fill this role by getting to know the children and their families, reviewing all records, talking to teachers, doctors, counselors and being involved in court hearings. Since the program's inception in 1997, it has served more than 809 children.

