



Geauga County Job & Family Services Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Newsletter



Thanks for Your Feedback

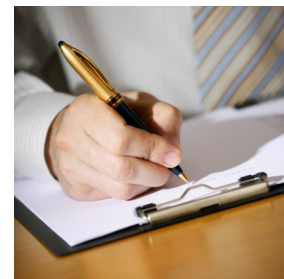
Thanks to everyone that took the time to complete the newsletter survey. We really appreciate all the feedback you provided. Based on the results, we will be sending out newsletters every other month.

You had great suggestions for what you would like to see included in future newsletters, including:

- ◆ Articles about support groups
- ◆ Information about the Kinship program
- ◆ Dealing with issues that come up years after adoption or placement

We also learned that you want to hear “Real” stories about families and children in our community. In order to do that we need to hear from you about your experience as a foster, adoptive or kinship parent. If you are willing to share your story, please send it to Kathi Serafino. You can email to serafk@odjfs.state.oh.us. If you would like more information please contact Kathi at 440-285-1219. You can include information such as:

- ◆ How long you have been involved with our agency
- ◆ How you got involved
- ◆ What services are/were you involved with
- ◆ What’s been most rewarding
- ◆ What would you change



Save the Date

Peace Lutheran Church’s **Help Save a Dream** program assists area families that have been hit hard by the economy. A fund raising event has been planned for Saturday, September 8th, from 10:00 AM until 8:00 PM and will include food, activities, and entertainment. Contact Peace Lutheran at 440-286-1266 for additional information.

Geauga County Friends of CASA for Kids will hold it’s **6th annual Kids’ Safety Day** on Saturday, September 15th from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Century Village in Burton Village. The event features safety education, demonstrations and entertainment. Pre-register at www.geaugacasa.org to be entered for prizes to be drawn the day of the event.

A **Financial Literacy Workshop** series is being offered free to Geauga County Residents. The workshops will consist of a variety of topics including Improving Your Credit Score, Creating a Personal Budget, Teaching Kids About Money, Communicating About Money, Developing a Savings Plan, and Identity Theft. Contact Sara Shining, Community Support Coordinator, 440-285-9141, ext. 1263 for information or to register for a workshop.

Help Me Learn Day, sponsored by Geauga County Job and Family Services assists low income children in our community with school supplies for the upcoming school year. This year’s **Help Me Learn Day** at Geauga JFS will be held on August 6th. A second Help Me Learn Day for families in the Chagrin Falls area will be held at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center on August 14th. Families must demonstrate financial need in order to qualify. Registered children and their parents are invited to Geauga JFS or Chagrin Falls Park where volunteers help the children “shop” for their school supplies. Contact Sara Shining, Community Support Coordinator, 440-285-9141, ext. 1263 for information or to register.

Legal Services for Kinship Caregivers



Are you 55 years of age or older and the primary caregiver of a child under the age of 18?

Are you a grandparent whose grandchild resides with you?

Are you 55 years of age or older and the legal guardian or custodian for a minor child?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, the Geauga County Department on Aging Legal Services program can assist you with up to three hours of legal services per year (up to six hours for a married couple).

Contact the Geauga County Department on Aging at 440-279-2130 or more information and to request an appointment.

Child Spotlight of the Month Kaleigh — DOB February 28, 1998



Kaleigh has been described as being caring of others, very observant, and a good conversationalist. She has a big heart, and always wants to “help” others.

Kaleigh enjoys drawing, coloring and painting pictures. Her favorite foods are pizza, crab legs, and pepperoni. Her favorite restaurants are McDonald’s and Red Lobster. She goes to the library weekly to get books that spark her interest. Kaleigh is someone who enjoys being outside, whether it be playing on the playground equipment, or just taking a walk. During the winter months she enjoys sledding and making snowmen. Kaleigh also likes to spend a lot of time with her baby dolls. Like many girls her age, she enjoys listening to music, dancing, and having her hair styled. Her favorite characters are Sponge Bob and Winnie the Pooh.

Kaleigh is in the 6th grade. She has an IEP for reading and math. Overall, she does well in school, and puts forth her best effort. While she has a difficult time socially, she has made progress in this area.

Kaleigh needs a family that will provide her with structure, support, and a great amount of patience and understanding.

Would you like to learn even more about Kaleigh? Contact Geauga County Job and Family Services, 285-9141.



Training Reminders

E-Track will be officially rolling out for all foster parents. **E-Track** represents an exciting technological step forward. Caregivers will be receiving information on accessing and utilizing this program in the near future.

To register for training you can call the county directly, call the Foster **Parent Training Line** at 1-866-294-3787 or contact [Julie Hayden](mailto:julie.hayden@ocwtp.com), at 330-379-1976.

Want to know what trainings are being held by other counties? Visit the **Northeast Regional Training Center** website at <http://www.ocwtp.com/neortc.htm>

Foster Parents you can receive up to 1/3 of your training hours through **Foster Parent College**. That means that you can get up to 13 hours over 2 years of your training hours online. For more information go to www.fosterparentcollege.com.

Foster/Adoptive parents **Online** training presented by **Foster Care & Adoptive Community, Inc.** www.fosterparents.com/training 818-998-4462. This online training program allows parents to get training when their schedule allows and they are low cost trainings.

Time In versus Time Out

In our last newsletter a technique called "Re-Do" was explained. "Time In versus Time Out" utilizes the Re-Do while also incorporating "Time In." With Time-In, rather than sending a child to another room, the child is asked to sit quietly in the same room with you until they are able to "Re-Do" the behavior. Many foster or adoptive children are already dealing with issues of abandonment. This technique promotes a healthy, secure connection with your child.

In order to help you better understand this technique, please log on to empoweredtoconnect.org. You will see many videos by Dr. Karyn Purviss. Click on the "More Videos" line to view the clip in which Dr. Purviss explains "Time In versus Time Out" and incorporating the "Re-Do" concept.

Dr. Karyn Purviss has been instrumental in developing and teaching the Trust Based Relational Intervention to parents of children who have come from a trauma based past.



Crafts & Activities

Beaded Wind Chimes

Materials:

- ◆ Pipe cleaner
- ◆ Strings
- ◆ Metal shank button or metal washer
- ◆ Paint brushes
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Big beads
- ◆ Small bells
- ◆ Drinking straws
- ◆ Poster or acrylic paint
- ◆ Hole punch

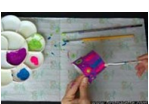
Directions:



Trim a paper cup to a height of approximately 2 to 3 inches.



Punch 4 evenly-spaced holes around the cup's mouth.



Paint the paper cup with poster paint. *Use acrylic paint if the surface of your paper cup is glossy or waxy.



Cut 4 equal lengths of string 12 inches long. Cut a 5th that is 2 inches longer. Tie a small bell at the end of 4 of the strings. Set the 5th string aside for the pendulum.



Cut drinking straws into $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1-inch long pieces.



String beads and drinking straws through each of the 4 strings. Leave an allowance of 1.5 to 2 inches at the top of each string.



Attach the beaded strings around the painted paper cup by securing the top end of each string around the punched-out holes.



To make the pendulum, trim a pipe cleaner to around 6 inches and make a loop on one end.



Tie one end of the 5th string through the loop on the pipe cleaner.



Attach a metal shank button or metal washer on the other end of the string.



Punch a small hole at the center of the paper cup base.



Attach the pendulum to the wind chimes by inserting the end of the pipe cleaner through the hole at the center of the cup. Pull all the way through. The loop on the pipe cleaner serves as a stopper.



Check if the metal button or washer is at the same level as the bells. Loop the pipe cleaner on top to make the wind chimes' handle.

Hang the wind chimes where it can catch a soft breeze.



Kids Bowl Free Program



Bowling Centers, schools and community organization around the country are participating in the Kids Bowl Free program this Summer. They are working together to give back to the community and provide a safe, fun way for kids 15 and under to spend some time this summer.

Ernst Lanes in Chardon is participating in the program. For more information or to sign up, go to www.kidsbowlfree.com.

Foster Parents of the Year

This year's Foster Parents of the Year, Eric & Vickie Eging, were honored at this year's Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner held at Blazin' Bills in Burton. The Eging's have fostered 25 children over the years. They were certified in Texas for 4 years, and adopted 2 boys that had been in foster care for 10 years. After moving to Ohio, Eric and Vickie were certified with Beechbrook for 4 years and in 2011 became certified with Geauga County.

When asked what is the best part of working with Geauga County JFS they said *"There is great communication! They always come up with answers to problems. They have never felt they are alone in the process. They feel huge support from the agency and the social workers care and know their children that are on their caseloads."*

The Eging's have been described by others as:

"They have incredible insight into the individual needs of each child and follow through with anything the children need. They are always positive and optimistic and never appear to be overwhelmed!"

"They have developed especially positive relationships with both biological families and agency staff. This family has worked to facilitate reunification and has invited the birth parents into their home."

"Most importantly always have the children's best interests in mind."

"This family sets aside family time to ensure that they all spend time together and each child gets individual time as well."

Recipes

Carved Watermelon Fruit Salad



Ingredients:

- ◆ Watermelon
- ◆ Favorite fruits
- ◆ Tooth picks (optional)

Directions:

- ◆ Cut open and clean out watermelon
- ◆ Decide on a design and carve your watermelon bowl
- ◆ Cut up favorite fruits
- ◆ Mix the fruits together and place on tooth picks if desired
- ◆ Put fruit mixture into your designed watermelon bowl
- ◆ Enjoy!

Lemonade Fruit Popsicles

Ingredients:

- ◆ Your favorite fruit
- ◆ $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
- ◆ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lemon juice
- ◆ $\frac{1}{4}$ cup agave or honey

Directions:

- ◆ Loosely fill container or popsicle molders with fruit
- ◆ Mix water, lemon juice, and agave or honey
- ◆ Fill fruit filled containers almost to the top
- ◆ Place sticks in
- ◆ Put in freezer until frozen solid (about six hours depending on size)



Geauga County Job & Family Services - On-Going Training Schedule

Monday, August 13, 2012: American heart Association Pediatric Heartsaver First Aid **NEW**
Trainer: Ronna Johnson Time: 9am-4pm

Thursday, August 16, 2012: Working with Malfunctioning Families **NEW**
Trainer: Susan Tucker Time: 6-9pm

Wednesday, August 22, 2012: Professional Boundaries
Trainer: David Zidar Time: 6-9pm

Saturday, September 8, 2012: Defusing Crisis Situations Safely And Sanely
Trainer: Kathleen Terry Time: 9am-4pm

Geauga County Job & Family Services – Pre-Service Training Schedule

Pre-Service will be held starting September 25, 2012 on Tuesday and Thursdays through November 6, 2012.

Lake County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule 440-350-4218 or 440-918-4218

Wednesday, August 8, 2012: Educational Advocacy: Supporting Your Child's Success At School
Trainer: Ronna Johnson Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, August 14, 2012: Can We Talk? Improving Communication Skills
Trainer: Beth Philley Time: 6-9pm

Saturday, August 18, 2012: Defusing Crisis Situations Safely And Sanely
Trainer: Trisha Martinek Time: 9am-4pm

Wednesday, September 12, 2012: Helping Children With mentally Ill Parents
Trainer: Susan Tucker Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, September 20, 2012: Psychotropic Medications: Questions To Ask. The Who, What, When And Why Of Kids On Meds
Trainer: Stacy Simera Time: 6-9pm

Ashtabula County Children's Services Board - On-Going Training Schedule 440-998-1811

Thursday, August 2, 2012: The Power Of Play: How Play Is Essential To A Child's Healthy Development And Fundamental To their Happiness
Trainer: Beth Cardina Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, August 14, 2012: "Do You Feel Me?" Talking, Listening and Problem Solving with Your Foster Child
Trainer: Brian Lowery Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, August 28, 2012: When Love Is Not Enough: Session 2 – Building Brilliant Brains Through Bonding
Trainer: Kathleen Terry Time: 6-9pm

Wednesday, September 5, 2012: Caring For Children Who Have Experienced Trauma – Module III And IV
Trainer: David Zidar Time: 6-9pm

Saturday, September 8, 2012: Experiencing The Frustration Of The Learning Disabled Child
Trainer: Pam Himes Time: 9am-4pm

Monday September 10, 2012: Managing the Hurt: When Your Foster Child Leaves
Trainer: Kathy Lowery Time: 6-9pm

Ashtabula County Children's Services Board Pre Service Training Schedule

Pre-Service will be held starting Monday August 13, 2012 through October 29, 2012 on varying nights.