



Connections

April

La Crosse County
Human Services
Dept.

Volume 9, Issue 4
2007

Child Abuse Prevention Month



Wear a blue ribbon to help create awareness of the need to prevent child abuse and neglect.

In the spring of 1989, a Virginia grandmother began the Blue Ribbon Campaign as a tribute to her grandson. The 3-year-old died at the hands of his mother's abusive boyfriend. The Blue Ribbon Campaign is a memorial to children who have been touched by abuse and neglect, and a reminder that everyone has a job to do to prevent the maltreatment of children.

Child abuse can happen in any home, in any neighborhood, within any family. According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, reporting agencies nationwide received 2.9 million referrals for child abuse and neglect in 2003 and an estimated 1,500 children died from maltreatment.



Abused and neglected children do poorly in school, are more likely to become teen parents and abuse alcohol and drugs. They are more likely to become criminals as adults and to suffer chronic health problems. Most children who are abused bear psychological scars—and in some cases, physical scars—forever.

What can you do to prevent child abuse? Becoming involved in the Blue Ribbon Campaign is a good place to start. Building positive parenting skills and improving community support for families are also effective ways to prevent child abuse and neglect.

SOURCE: <http://blueribbononline.wi.gov/FAQ.html>

Mark Your Calendar!

Confidentiality Trainings:

Monday, May 7, 9:00-11:30AM

Wednesday, May 9, 1:00-3:30PM

Tuesday, May 15, 6:00-8:30PM

Generalized Foster Parent Trainings

Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Human Services Building Basement Auditorium

July 10, 2007 Topic To Be Announced.

September 11, 2007 Topic To Be Announced.

November 13, 2007 Topic To Be Announced.

Other Training Opportunities

Upcoming Workshops at Family Resources, 1500 Green Bay St.

For more information or to register, call 784-8125. Child care may be provided.



Thursday, May 10, 6:30-8:00PM What's Your Personality Type?

Take a personal style inventory and discover your personality "type". Explore how your type creates strengths and challenges in your life and your relationships with others.

Thursday, May 17, 6:30-8:00PM Parenting Counts

Hear how you and your child can develop a clear emotional vocabulary, leading to fewer tantrums and life-long "emotional intelligence".

Tuesday, June 12, 5:30-8:30PM Stewards of Children

A nationally acclaimed training opportunity designed to educate adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

Special Events

May 24, 2007, 5:00-8:00pm

Foster Care Picnic

Myrick Park in the big shelter

September 20, 2007, Social hour begins at 5:30

Foster Parent Banquet

Drugan's

October 25, 2007, 5:00-8:00pm

Harvest of Thanks

Roncalli Newman Center, 1732 State St.

Parade Season 2007

Please remember to call Rhonda Rude about your participation in one of the up and coming foster care parade events. The Sunfish Days Parade is the next event that we are preparing for and we need to hear from the foster parents out there in the community. The Sunfish Days Parade will be held on *Saturday May 26th at 12:00pm*. We are looking for (4) four families to volunteer to participate in this parade to help with handing out candy and generally helping the community at large learn more about foster care. Please call Rhonda Rude with your interest in helping with this parade.

For more information about the complete schedule of the 2007 Parade Season, refer to the March edition of the Connections Newsletter. You may also call Rhonda Rude at (608) 789 4834 for any additional questions you may have about participating in one of these fun parade events. Remember your involvement in a parade event helps the general public learn more about all of the Everyday Heroes that are out there in the community. Thank you all for what you do each and every day.

Three Rivers Dental Clinic Hours

Due to staffing shortages, there have been some changes to the Three Rivers dental clinic hours. They will continue to serve all the patients of Monroe, Vernon and La Crosse counties, but will do so solely from their Cashton site after April 6. They are actively recruiting dentists and hope to have additional capacity finalized before the work of several of their providers ends on April 6th.

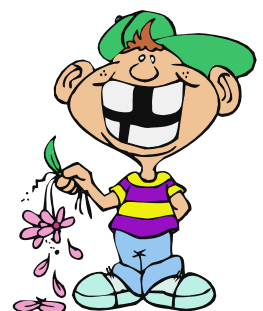
Three Rivers is still accepting new patients. They have moved approximately 200 people off of their waiting list since August of 2006, are still taking names to add to the back end of the waiting list (currently at 556) and will continue to offer care and treatment to as many patients as possible. Over the last year, patients scheduled through the Cashton location and should continue to do so by calling (608)654-5100, extension 258 or extension 257. Effective April 9, their office hours will be:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>8:00-4:00</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>8:00-6:00</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>8:00-4:00</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>8:00-4:00</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>8:00-1:00</i>

These hours may increase due to dentist availability in the future.

Facts worth considering...

- Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in America, affecting 50% of first graders and 80% of 17-year-olds.
- Half of all cavities in low-income children go untreated.
- Over 51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental related problems.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 20% of the dollars spent on the health care of children should be allocated for dental care. In Wisconsin, less than 1% of Medicaid dollars are spent on dental care.
- Wisconsin is ranked in the bottom five states in the nation for percentage of Medicaid funds allotted for dental care.
- In a recent survey from the WDA, 80% of responding dentists indicated they would take new Medicaid clients if the reimbursement rate were raised to the 75th percentile.



Welcome New Foster Parents



Please welcome Kelly Adams to our foster care community. Kelly and her son live in Onalaska Wisconsin with their two dogs Scooby and Scrappy. Scrappy is quite possibly the smallest guard dog I have ever met. Kelly has wanted to join the ranks of Everyday Heroes for many years and she is now ready to accept children into her home. She and her son are hoping to provide a home to children under the age of twelve and they are willing to take in a sibling group. Kelly has already attended the pre service training (PACE) and has made sure her home is ready for all ages. She is also able to provide respite to children on the weekends. If you should happen to see her at one of the up and coming foster care events or trainings please take the time to introduce yourselves and welcome her.

Please welcome Clystyne and Brady Brever to the foster care community. The couple lives on the south side of La Crosse with their two sons. The family also has a dog and a cat that get along quite well despite the age old myth. The Brevers are relatively new to this area but are establishing themselves well in the community. Clystyne has a keen interest in the education of children as this is her academic background. Brady also has an academic background in teaching and is currently employed as a fire fighter at Fort McCoy. The Brever's sons are quite excited about the possibility of having another child live with them in their home. The family can receive up to two children in their home at this time. Some of you may have already met this couple as they are currently attending PACE. If you should happen to see them at other future foster care events please welcome them to our community of Everyday Heroes.

Please welcome Carol and Michael Patterson back to our foster care community. The Pattersons live on the North side of La Crosse (French Island) and are very interested in providing Respite care for other foster parents in our community. Mike and Carol were previously licensed as foster parents for La Crosse County between 1998 and 2004 and they provided care to several children during these years. They indicate that they have lots of time on their hands that they would like to fill with activities with children. They enjoyed their foster care experience and would like to once again continue their involvement with caring for children that are in need. If you should see them at an up and coming foster care event or training please take the time to welcome them back to the foster care community.

Best Response to Anger



When people are upset, communication is more difficult yet especially important. These guidelines may help:

- ✦ **Say little or nothing.** Avoid talking too much. By limiting the person's options to express feelings, the situation can worsen. Instead, listen and adopt a "speak only when spoken to" mode. Accept silences. Make remarks that invite the person to say more.
- ✦ **Separate facts from opinions.** Angry situations can bring out the worst in people—poor judgment, inaccurate listening, and leaping to conclusions. First, seek to understand what is going on. Consider what you know about the situation—what might have caused the anger, what the person is requesting, and the most immediate concerns.
- ✦ **Clarify with questions.** Keep your questions simple and short. Focus on information that will answer issues of causes, requests, and concerns.

Listening skills will help you find out what it takes to resolve an angry situation satisfactorily. And it will be useful in keeping in touch with what others are thinking and feeling, long before anyone becomes angry.

Source: Protection Connection newsletter, Vol. VII, Number 4, 2000

The Right to Refuse...Placements

By Betty Hastings

When final approval has been given to newly approved foster parents, there is that feeling of excitement, enthusiasm and the desire to demonstrate that they are now ready to begin immediately fostering a child needing placement. There are many areas that need to be addressed prior to the placement of a child in a home. Is this the right child for our foster home is an important question to ask before acceptance of a placement. Hopefully, time will be given to consider this important decision.

Accepting a Placement

During the licensing process, foster parents must determine the age of the child they want to consider. Due to the desperate need to place children, foster parents are often called to consider children who do not fit within that age limit or the type of placement families feel comfortable handling. With all the love, training, and what they may feel they have to offer, it's important to understand that every child may not be best suited for placement within a particular family setting. Careful consideration should be given to each request.

The foster parents must be able to understand that every child will likely suffer a devastating loss associated with his or her removal from the biological parents and being placed in state custody. Every child who comes into care has a different situation. The circumstances surrounding the process of treatment and success to a permanency plan will vary from child to child. Therefore, it is important that

the potential foster parents be informed and have the knowledge of the child's prior history. They need to be allowed to review any and all information to assist in determining if the child would be a proper placement for their home. The child's health history is an important factor as there are the foster parents who are not able to deal with the special needs of a particular child. Lack of this information will definitely jeopardize the successful permanency work that the foster parent must offer to a child.

Consideration should be given to the ability to preserve the continuity of the child's racial, ethnic, and cultural identity in a positive manner. A key component to effectively foster children of other cultures is for foster parents to become aware of their own culture and the differences and similarities between their culture and that of the child's. There may be cultural bias within the foster parents' extended family, the community, the school system or other areas. The child will need the support of the foster parents to be able to navigate through this emotional time. Understanding these facts is important and where there is concern, there should be great consideration if placement would be in the best interest of the child in the home.

Foster care is temporary and foster parents must determine if they can work effectively with birth parents if reunification is the goal for the child. Children placed in legal custody, when given the right to visit with their birth parents, need the support and shared parenting responsibilities of the foster parents. Foster care is a partnership which involves the agency, birth parents, child and foster parents. To effectively meet the best interests of the child, all components

of this partnership must work together. No matter how troubled or difficult the birth family may be, they are the roots of the child's origin and identity. Inability to work with a foster child's birth family, when the goal is to return home, would certainly prove to be detrimental to the placement of the child.

In considering the placement, it is important to recognize the other members of your immediate family, the effect that it has upon your spouse, birth children, extended family and others in order to work effectively with the foster child. Certainly, there are often those unexpected circumstances that will arise after placement, and perhaps movement from the home may be inevitable. Understanding that each movement of a child sets the child back possibly six months, nothing good can come from multiple moves. Therefore, this makes it even more important to take all areas under careful consideration prior to placement to keep disruptions from happening.

Refusing a Placement

When the decision has been reached by foster parents to refuse a placement, it is important to clearly express to the agency the reasons why. One of the most important pieces of good relationships is communication.

Communication opens doors for foster parents and workers who have been closed since the beginning of foster care. It is the responsibility of all involved to share information and certainly understand the reason for refusing to receive a placement is a part of the good relationship between the agency and the foster home.

(continued)

If foster parents refuse a placement they should not fear they may never be called for a placement again, unless refusals occur numerous times over a period without good reason. A placement should never be accepted with the feeling, "if I don't take this child, I may never be called again." Foster parents must keep in mind the best interest of the child, which is what this fostering is all about. There will certainly be another call eventually because there are so many children in need of care. It's just as important that when a home is needed, it also be the right placement for the child and family.

Changing Roles

The role of foster parents has made tremendous change within the past few years. Foster parents in some states today are able to receive information and assurance of participation prior to placement due to the adoption of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights. Even though the Bill of Rights may differ somewhat in wording in the individual states, the intent is to give foster parents an understanding of the responsibilities associated with those rights mandated. In some states as adopted by the Bill of Rights, foster parents have the right to refuse placement without threat of retaliation. This move has made it easier for foster parents to be able to truly give that request for placement

deeper and more consideration of how it will affect their lives and the life of the child needing placement within their home.

Foster parents should always keep in mind that if the child is placed in their home, they hold a part of the future of that child within their hands. If placement is not in the child's best interest and placement denied, they should never feel bad. There will be another child needing a home, another call made and the excitement, enthusiasm and desire to foster will return when a good fit is found.

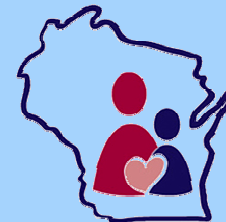
*Fostering Families Today, January/
February 2007*



A Message from the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center...

May is Foster Care Month and the Foster Care Month website is up and running. The website is located at <http://www.fostercaremonth.org>. Their logo has changed and you can order pins, posters, ribbons and CDs while supplies last. The supplies typically run out so if you are interested in placing an order for these free materials it's recommended that you do it soon.

The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center website, <http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org>, has been updated and enhanced. Foster parents are encouraged to visit the site and explore the new features.



Foster Care & Adoption Resource Center

Looking for information on Foster Care or Adoption? Visit us at our webpage:

www.wifostercareandadoption.org

or you may feel free to contact the resource center at our toll free number: 1-800-947-8074

or via email:

info@wifostercareandadoption.org



Eggshell Mosaic

Here's a project that you can do with those leftover dyed Easter eggs on a rainy April day!



Materials needed:

- Colored hard-boiled eggs
- Construction paper or card stock (thick paper works best)
- Tacky glue

Peel the boiled eggs (try not to make the pieces of shell too small). Arrange them to make a picture or pattern on the paper and glue down the design. If desired you can spray over the finished mosaic with clear spray lacquer.



Did you know...

76 percent of people eat the ears on chocolate bunnies first.

Easter Egg Hunt

How many Easter eggs can you find?



© FamilyFun
FamilyFun.com

Answer: There are ten eggs.

Sudoku Challenge!

Fill in the grid with numbers from 1 to 4. Each number should appear only once in every column, row, and square.



			4
		3	2
		4	3
4	3		

Visit www.bravekidgames.com for more brain-teasing, non-violent fun for kids.

fostering perspectives

Sponsored by the NC Division of Social Services and the NC Family and Children's Resource Program

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Fifty-One Ways to Praise a Child



1. You're a good friend
 2. You've got it
 3. You're incredible
 4. Bravo
 5. You're fantastic
 6. Hooray for YOU
 7. You're on target
 8. That's incredible
 9. How nice
 10. How smart
 11. Good job
 12. You're unique
 13. You belong
 14. Good for you
 15. Nothing can stop you now
 16. I like you
 17. You're a winner
 18. Remarkable job
 19. Beautiful work
 20. Spectacular
 21. A+ job
 22. You're darling
 23. You're spectacular
 24. You're precious
 25. Great discovery
 26. You've discovered the secret
 27. You figured it out
 28. Awesome
 29. Fantastic job
 30. Hip-hip Hooray
 31. Bingo
 32. Magnificent
 33. Terrific
 34. Marvelous
 35. You're important
 36. Phenomenal
 37. You're sensational
 38. Super work
 39. Creative job
 40. Super job
 41. You're a joy
 42. Exceptional performance
 43. You're a real trooper
 44. You are responsible
 45. You are exciting
 46. Super
 47. You're perfect
 48. You learned it right
 49. You're okay
 50. What an imagination
 51. You're a good listener
- P.S. A smile is worth 1,000 words!*

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