

**Section:** Family and Children's

**Subject:** Foster Parent Training

**Title: Foster Parent Training**

- I. PURPOSE:** Foster parenting has become an increasingly more complex and demanding responsibility. To meet the challenges of foster parenting, foster parents must increase their knowledge and skill level to adequately care for the children placed in their home.
- II. APPLICABILITY:** All foster parents licensed by La Crosse County Human Services Department (LCHSD).

**III. POLICY/PROCEDURE:**

All La Crosse County Foster Parents are required to complete at least **twelve (12)** hours (per home) of training per calendar year. Foster homes designated as "Specialized" require **sixteen (16)** hours of training per calendar year. At least **four (4)** hours of training must be earned for attendance and participation at in-house trainings. LCHSD provides generalized foster parent trainings every other month. Training hours earned from outside resources must be **pre-approved and verifiable** (must provide a copy of the training certificate and/or pamphlet or agenda from the training).

Foster parents can also earn training credit from reading books or watching videos that are relevant and directly related to foster care. LCHSD has a resource library which foster parents can access to check out training materials. Foster parents can earn up to **two (2)** training hours by choosing to either read books and/or watch videos. Books earn **1/2 hour** training credit and videos earn **one (1) hour** training credit. In order to receive credit, foster parents must submit a brief summary describing what they learned from the book or video and how they can apply that to the care they provide.

As of March 2008, all newly licensed foster parents must complete Pre-Placement training before they are eligible for having a child placed in their home. They are also required to complete Foundations training within the **first two (2) years of licensure**. Existing foster homes that have not completed PACE training are now required to complete the Foundations training instead as this training takes the place of PACE training.

Although foster parents may not be required to participate in any training beyond the minimum requirements, LCHSD strongly encourages all foster parents to participate in as much training as possible to increase their overall knowledge and skill level. Foster parents and staff from LCHSD must work together to continually identify training needs and opportunities.

Failure to complete the training requirements may result in the foster home being ineligible for future placements.

- IV. METHOD OF REVIEW:** This policy will be reviewed annually.

EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2009

REVISED:

APPROVED: KEITH KELLER