

Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength
of Family

Editors

Curtiss Hemby
Jason Cecil

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: NICOLE FOX PHILLIPS

WEST REGION RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER

As the school year draws to a close and summer approaches, it will be time to get kids involved in summer camps and other extra-curricular activities. A common fear many children in foster care have is making friends in unfamiliar situations. Children with special needs may lack the social skills necessary to approach new situations, but helping children build social skills and relationships can have lasting influence on their overall success. Strong friendships are also important for their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Here are some ways you can support them in this area.

1. Making Friends with Extra-Curricular Activities
Surprisingly, many children in special education programs do not participate in extracurricular activities, and they miss this important social skills teaching opportunity. Help your child discover his or her strengths and interests to help him or her choose the right place to learn social skills. Whatever your child enjoys, it is likely there are opportunities to

teach social skills in your community and for him or her to join with others.

2. Organized Activities Help Teach How to Make Friends

Your child will benefit from social skills teaching inherent in social interaction outside the school setting. With your encouragement, even reluctant or shy children can be taught social skills through interaction with others through activities.

3. Building Friendships in Easy-to-Manage Steps

Teach your child social skills needed to develop friendships in small, easy steps. Social skills may not come easily for your child. Children with disabilities may feel intimidated by other kids, and they may find it too uncomfortable to try to reach out to them. Help your child work on these social skills by setting small goals. Ask your child to smile and greet one new child each day. Just say, "Hi." This is often enough to reduce the pressure and begin some conversations that build toward relationships. Each night, have a **friendly chat about your child's day**, and talk about how many people he or she spoke to.

4. Making Friends Takes Practice
Teach social skills by rehearsing social situations ahead of time. Role play meeting a new person with each other. Kids can use friendly, polite questions to encourage each other to talk and break the ice. Focusing on others will also help your child feel less self-conscious.

5. Game and Sportsmanship can Teach Making Friends in Advance
Teach your child social skills needed to make friends by helping him or her learn and practice games and activities at home that are popular at school. Consider making your house the hangout for outdoor fun.

6. Schedule Fun Time to Make Social Skills and Making Friends a Priority
Create a circle of friends by encouraging playtime with a few neighborhood children. Invest in some quality time and snacks, and you'll cultivate friendships that may stay with your child.

Originally printed by Ann Logsdon, Licensed School Psychologist.

Nicole Fox Phillips, LMSW



RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

THE POWER OF ONE !!!

During the month of April, we are challenging all of our current foster parents to refer at least ONE new family to TFI to become a licensed foster / adoptive parent. We will place everyone who has a referral family who enters training into a drawing for a 50.00 gift card to the restaurant of the winner's choice. You will also receive a \$300 incentive bonus when the family becomes licensed. Remember the POWER OF ONE can be powerful. Happy Recruiting !!

Jason Cecil, MSW

**Welcome
New Resource
Families**

- Debra Burton
- Gary and Valorie Hayner
- Janelle Gray
- Leroy and Elouise Ware
- Lashawn Stevenson
- Jeremiah and Rena Wood
- Nathan and Julia Bruns
- Daniel and Shelly Rowe
- Brandon and Tina Coffey
- Danny and Tonya Williams
- Matthew and Jennifer Gosser
- Phillip and Jessie Fewins
- LaKesha Whitsett
- Jackie Ballweber
- Andrea O'Byrne**
- Nicole Cooper
- James and Rebecca Rubow/Morgan
- John and Erica Poersch
- Dawn Reed
- Bobby and Carla Orcutt
- Mike and Joyce Allen
- Rodney and Tori Pfeiffer



Reminders

For after hour emergencies, please call 1-877-921-4114.

Visit TFI's website and view *Between Families* newsletter online at www.tffamilyservices.org

Dear Daisy 

Dear Daisy,

The last two placements I've accepted arrived to my house without Redbooks & medications. It took the workers 3 days to locate the youth's medication, and the Redbook was never found. KDHE told me I was not to accept a placement without a medical consent and medication.

Signed:

Red Rover, Red Rover send the Redbook right over.....

Dear Red Rover,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. You are correct KDHE regulations state that you must have the following: a signed medical consent, placement agreement, reason for custody, health & medication information, allergies, and **information about the child's last school at the time of placement. TFI has 14 days** to get you additional information. For this reason it is imperative that each **resource parent, send the child's Redbook, medication, and belongings with the child** at the time of the placement change. If you are unable to gather up all of the belongings at a minimum the Redbook and medications must be sent with the child the day they leave your home. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Daisy

*SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
GARRY AND DIANNA WELLS*

I have nominated Garry and Dianna Wells as the Southeast Region Care Providers of the Month. Mrs. Wells is always willing to do whatever it takes to make it easier on the children while in her care. Teamwork is a great characteristic that Mrs. Well has, and she is always willing to help with whatever is needed to ensure things run smoothly!

Mrs. Wells goes above the normal standards in advocating for her foster children. She makes sure all of the children's medical needs are met, and she communicates with the TFI workers and biological families to make sure everyone is on the same page.

The foster children seem to really enjoy the time they spend with the Wells family. They have a very loving family and treat each child like their own!

Submitted by,

Tara Barnes, RFS---Parsons

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
LONNIE AND BOBBIE PATRICK*

Lonnie and Bobbie Patrick have been nominated as the West Region Care Providers of the Month. Lonnie and Bobbie are relatively new Resource Parents, and they have not gone through their first renewal yet. While they are new at fostering, they are performing like well-seasoned pros. They are providing the very thing their placements need: care, consistency, and follow through. They are doing an excellent job of "saying what they mean and meaning what they say." The placements that Lonnie and Bobbie have taken so far have been very challenging, and they have hung in there with the placements even when these placements did not want to be in their home. Lonnie and Bobbie have a true commitment to children and want to be there to "help the children." Bobbie used these words repeatedly with me when their last placement had to leave their home due to intense behaviors.

Bobbie is also eager to "do it right." She asked me several times about what services are available to children in her area and what it is that TFI expects of them as Foster Parents.

Lonnie and Bobbie, thanks for the wonderful job you are doing!!!!

Submitted by,

Teresa Waggoner, RFS—Winfield

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
BONNIE GRAHAM*

I would like to nominate Bonnie Graham for Care Provider of the Month for the Northeast Region. Bonnie has been providing outstanding care for teens for seven years (since April 2005). Ms. Graham has fostered a variety of teens with special needs including academic (alternative schooling), emotional, and physical challenges. Recently, when working with maternal teen girls, Bonnie has provided a wealth of knowledge by setting up services such as parenting, nutrition, budgeting, and childbirth preparation classes for these pregnant girls to assist them in the opportunity to be successful parents.

Bonnie displays willingness to work openly with the biological families in order to meet her teens' needs and she works diligently for reintegration with their families or towards each teen's independent living skills. My resource parent always participates in case plan meetings and offers positive suggestions regarding clear goals for success. She is a wonderful role model to her teen placements in the manner of appropriately advocating for themselves in court or in any public settings. Bonnie believes that dressing correctly helps the girls' self-esteem and consistently arranges shopping trips for new outfits before their court hearings.

She is amazing with paperwork and always has copies of any necessary forms including progress reports, physician visits, and incident reports. Her awesome work ethic makes my duties as her resource worker such a great experience! Bonnie has been an excellent resource parent to work with and I truly feel that she is a blessing to the teens who are placed in her home. Thank you Bonnie for providing great care for your teen girls.

Submitted by,

Kathy Weigel, RFS—Topeka

**Try These Green Spring Ideas
Submitted by Lisa Bozarth, Public Affairs Supervisor**

April means many things, warmer temperatures, early blooms, and spring cleaning. Try these tips to green up your spring!

- For spring cleaning try cutting holey clothes (socks, sweatshirts, and t-shirts work best) to use as cleaning rags instead of buying paper towels or sponges
- Now that going outside is enjoyable, start a compost pile. Make sure to add equal green, such as grass clippings, and brown compost items, such as shredded newspaper.
- Now is a great time to start a garden for delicious home-grown produce!
- Place buckets outside during April showers to collect rain water for watering plants. Just be careful not to let the rain water sit long enough to grow stagnant and become a mosquito breeding ground!
- Teach your children to appreciate nature by taking them to a zoo or park this month! Light mist or rain on cool spring mornings make for the best time to see active animals and avoid large crowds.



Resource Family Anniversaries

"One Year"

Victoria Allison
 Fred and Charlotte Gibson
 James (Jim)
 Frischenmeyer
 David and Tabitha Petefish
 Connie Sosa
 Steve and Tonia
 Johnson/Simpson
 Curtis and Jamie Clark
 Jared and Jessica Michael
 Steve and Jerri Puttbrese
 Heather Stokes
 Shannon and Tabitha
 Baldwin
 Ryan and Sherry Bizoe
 Edwin and Cari Rodriguez
 Christy Coulston
**Burton "Terry" and Gayle
 Garrett**
 Geneva Hardy
 Jared and Emily Rudy
 Hattie Manchester
 Jared and Phylicia Stamp
 Edward and Susan Wheeler
**Kenneth "K.B." and Stacey
 Criss**

"Three Years"

Trenton and Dawnell
 Mason
 John and Dana Badders
 Lori Henderson
 Leon and Ryneck Sharp
 Kelvin and Patricia Atkins
 Troy and Shari Steadham
 Jason and Ronda Spooner

"Five Years"

Wanda Massie
 Paul and Jennie Cooper
 Scott and Angela Gislar
 Hans and Tonya Hanson

I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?

Ja'Chel



Ja'Chel enjoys playing basketball and volunteering at the senior center. She is doing well in school and makes friends easily. Ja'Chel's favorite class in school is Geometry; she likes the challenge of figuring out that one right answer. Ja'Chel has many things in mind for her future. She would like to be a famous poet, model, hair stylist and to do things to help people, especially children. Ja'Chel will need continued mental health services to address any needs or issues that she may have. She can sometimes struggle with being honest and she will need encouragement to share her feelings. Ja'Chel needs a forever family that will not ever give up on her. She would like a home with other children.

**For more information on Ja'Chel, please
 contact Mary Martinez at
 (785) 539-1017.**

April 2012 Support Meetings

Anthony: TBA.

Chanute: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th Street, Chanute, KS. Topic: TBA.

Concordia: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Concordia TFI office, 516 & 518 Washington St., Concordia, KS. Topic: Forms and Documentation.

El Dorado: Thursday, April 12, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the El Dorado TFI office, 3913 SW 10th, El Dorado, KS. Topic: Childhood Depression.

Emporia: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Emporia TFI office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS. Topic: Summer Time Alternatives.

Fort Scott: Monday, April 30, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS. Topic: Managing Behaviors in Young Children.

Hutchinson: Thursday, April 5, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the South Hutchinson Christian Church. Topic: Fourth Class of Love and Logic Parenting.

Independence: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Independence TFI office, 501 N. Penn, Independence, KS. Topic: KIPP program.

Iola: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Iola TFI office, 1702 N. State Street, Iola, KS. Topic: TBA.

Kansas City: Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 6:00p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Kansas City, KS. Topic: Preparing Youth for Aging Out of Foster Care.

Leavenworth/Atchison: Monday, April 23, 2012 at 6:00pm at he Leavenworth Public Library. Topic: Licensing Renewal Q & A.

Lawrence: Thursday, April 19, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lawrence TFI office, 910 W. 24th Street, Lawrence, KS. Topic: KDHE Regulations and Interpretation.

Manhattan: Monday, April 16, 2012 at 6:00 at the Manhattan TFI office, 116 S. 4th Street, Ste. 1, Manhattan, KS. Topic: Reactive Attachment Disorder.

Overland Park: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Overland Park TFI office, 8300 College Blvd, Ste. 301, Overland Park, KS. Topic: Summer Fun and Recreation.

Parsons: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Parsons TFI office, 1906 Main Street, Parsons, KS 67357. Topic: Education and Discipline. Flyers will be sent out.

Phillipsburg: Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00pm at Lakeside Elementary, 3rd grade classroom, Downs, KS. Topic: First Aid.

Pittsburg: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Pittsburg TFI office, 3101 C North Michigan, Pittsburg KS. Topic: First Aid.

Salina: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS. Topic: Trust Based Parenting—Part 1.

Topeka: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th Street, Topeka, KS. Topic: Care Management Department

Winfield: TBA.

Wichita: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Wichita TFI office, 1711 S. Longfellow, Wichita, KS. Topic: Lifebooks and Scrapbooking.

Questions?
Suggestions?

Remember, if you have a problem, concern, or question about TFI Family Services, Inc., your first stop should be our Concern Line at concernline@tfifamily.org or Ombudsman Nadine Terry-Washington at 877-942-2239.

