

The Foster Network

June / July 2014



School's Out For the Summer!

Summertime is upon us! While children often count the days down to summer vacation, caregivers are scrambling to find childcare, day camps, and other activities to keep children engaged while they are out of school. We hope this issue of **The Foster Network** will give you some ideas on how to keep your kiddos busy this summer!



Extracurricular, Enrichment, and Social Activities

Court dependent children are entitled to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment and social activities. Caregivers (relative and foster parents) have the discretion to authorize or deny such activities by utilizing the "reasonable and prudent parent standard" without prior approval from the child's social worker, licensing department, or the juvenile court. By utilizing the "prudent parent standard," caregivers will use "careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the child's health, safety and best interests." By utilizing this standard, the caregiver will determine the appropriateness of the activity in consideration of the child's age, maturity and developmental level. (*Section 362.05 of the Welfare & Institution Code*)

Travel

If you expect to travel with a dependent child this summer, you must obtain prior authorization from the child's social worker if the travel is for more than two days. If you are traveling out of Ventura County with a child(ren) that is placed in your care, be sure to inform the assigned social worker of where and when you will be leaving and returning to Ventura County. Please plan to provide dates of travel, location(s) and emergency contact information.

If you are traveling out of California, you will need to be sure to inform the assigned social worker at least two weeks before the trip begins with travel dates and times, as well as where you and the child(ren) will be staying.

For travel outside of the United States, please provide the assigned social worker with at least 60 day notice in order to obtain court approval for this travel and for the child(ren) to obtain a passport. You will need to provide travel dates/times and location where you and the child(ren) will be staying.

Please remember that travel may impact visitation schedules. The child's social worker may ask you to make arrangements that are outside of the typical visitation schedule before or after the travel takes place.



CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Retention, & Support Info Line.....	654-3220
RRS Foster Parent Social Worker	654-5581
RRS Recruitment Specialist ..	654-5582
RRS Manager	654-5594
Licensing	654-3456
Relative Approval.....	654-3422
Placement.....	289-1908/654-3211
Adoptions.....	654-3210
Youth Services Division	289-1983
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	981-5373
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse.....	654-5536
General Information Emergency Response Units	654-3444
General Information Ongoing Units	240-2700
General Information East County	955-2290
General Information Central Programs	654-3405
Children's Services Auxiliary Liaison	654-3245/289-1926
Field-Based Case Aides	289-1989
ILP Coordinators	289-1982/654-5574
Eligibility Officer of the Day ..	654-3409

What's Goin' On?

Camarillo Foster Parent Networking:
"Foster Talk"

Wednesday, June 25, 9:30 - 11 a.m.
1313 Avenida de Aprisa, Camarillo
A mom's morning out to network
and meet with other foster parents,
receive support and information
about navigating Child Welfare.

Sponsored by Defending the Fatherless,
Calvary Nexus. For more info, visit
defendingthefatherless.org

American Red Cross CPR & First Aid:
Initial (Full Day) Certification Course
Friday, June 13, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

975 Flynn Road, Camarillo
Learn to recognize and respond
to cardiac, breathing, and first aid
emergencies.

Building a Successful Team
Thursday, June 26, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Moorpark College CDC

We will define all of the individuals
who are directly involved in the case
plan and discuss the resources and
benefits of each person and appropriate
information and communication as it
relates to the case plan. Please RSVP to
Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu.

3rd Annual BBQ sponsored by
Defending the Fatherless
Saturday, June 28, 2:30 p.m.
RSVP for location.

All foster parents to the 3rd Annual
BBQ. Bring your swimsuit and a side
dish to share. Reps from different
agencies will help you get connected
and learn more about foster care. This
event is for all foster and adoptive
families and those considering foster
care. Please note that while this is a
Christian-based ministry, all families are
welcome! For more information e-mail
defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com

Ventura Foster Parent Networking
Tuesday, July 1, 6 - 8 p.m.

500 High Point Drive, Ventura
(Ventura Missionary Church)
Receive updated information as to
changes related to foster care and
network with other foster parents.
Please RSVP to Debbie Flowers at
debbieflores@vcccd.edu

Training on the Lanterman Act &
Regional Center Services
Wednesday, July 2, 7 - 9 p.m.
Simi Valley, RSVP for specific location
Learn what types of services & support
your child & family is eligible for
through Tri-Counties Regional Center,
including how to prepare for your IPP
(Individual Program Plan) meeting, what
questions you should be asking, and
how knowing what your rights are can
make a difference. To register please call
Rainbow Connection Family Resource
Center at (805) 485-9643.

Alternate Caregivers

If the caregiver (relative or foster) will be absent from the home for 24 hours or less, they are permitted to arrange for an alternative caregiver who will provide care and supervision of the child for occasional, short term care, taking into consideration the age and needs of the child. The caregiver shall apply the "reasonable and prudent parent standard" when identifying a caregiver. If the caregivers will be absent for over 24 hours, the following criteria must be met for these individuals: must be 18 years of age or older, must have completed the criminal record clearance requirement, and be able to comply with statutes and regulations. The care and supervision of the child must occur at the caregiver's home. The caregiver must notify the child/ren's social worker and Licensing Program Analyst of travel dates, name of the alternative caregiver and emergency contact information. If the absence will exceed 72 hours, prior approval from the social worker is required. Contact our Placement Coordinators to help make arrangements for respite coverage.

CSA Foster & Relative Caregiver

PICNIC

There is still time to RSVP to the Children's Services Auxiliary annual foster and relative caregiver picnic! The picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 12 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Freedom Park in Camarillo. BBQ will be provided by the Conejo Valley Kiwanis and families are asked to contribute a side dish. Join us for lunch, arts & crafts, a petting zoo, games, a jolly jump, and raffles! RSVP by July 1 to Victoria Camacho at (805) 654-3220.



Summer Activities at the YMCA

Financial assistance is available for all of these camp activities by contacting sarah.abrams@cymca.org or visit www.cymca.org/ventura.

Ventura Day Camps – For students entering K-8th grades. Weekly programs run June 16 thru August 15 from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. with no additional charge for extended hours. Snacks are provided.

Ventura Specialty Camps – For students entering 2-5th grades. This is a weekly program running from June 16 - August 15. Hours are 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. with no additional charge for extended hours. Lunch provided.

Oxnard Day Camps – For students entering K-6th grades. Hosted at Rio Del Mar. This is a weekly program that will run from June 23 - August 22. Hours are 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. with no additional charge for extended hours. Snacks and lunch provided.

Crew Teen Leadership – For students entering 9-12th grades. This is a 6-week program Mondays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Children's Services Auxiliary (CSA) Summer Camp Reimbursement

The CSA is pleased to offer camp scholarships for Ventura County's court dependent children to experience the excitement of residential or day camps. Scholarships are not guaranteed and funding is limited, so reserve your space now. Please contact Victoria Camacho at (805) 654-3220 or via e-mail, victoria.camacho@ventura.org, to reserve your scholarship.

Caregivers may select any camp that meets the child's needs! Requests for funding will be processed in the order they are received. All of the required documentation must be submitted at the time of the funding request. Summer Camp funding requests must be submitted no later than August 31, 2014.

- It is the responsibility of the caregiver to select an appropriate camp and to confirm space is available. When you register the child, be sure to ask if there are any scholarships available.
- You may need to pay at a deposit, if not the entire fee at the time of registration. You can be reimbursed up to \$300.
- Make sure you get a receipt that includes the **child's name, name and dates of the camp, how much was paid, and if there is a balance due.**
- To receive your reimbursement, mail, fax, or e-mail a copy of the receipt along with your name, address, and phone number to:

Children's Services Auxiliary
4651 Telephone Road, Suite 300
Ventura, CA 93003

FAX: (805) 654-3454, Attention: CSA
E-mail: victoria.camacho@ventura.org
Phone: (805) 654-3220

Royal Family Kids Camp is a one-week resident camp designed especially for court-dependent children, 7 to 11 years old. Returning campers who have not turned 12 years old have first priority. If you have a child who will be 7 to 11 years old at the time of camp and would enjoy a wonderful camp experience, please contact one of the registrars listed below.

Session 1: June 23 - 27, 2014

Sponsor: St. John's Lutheran Church of Oxnard

Registrar: Melanie Higashi (805) 797-3837

Session 2: August 4 - 8, 2014

Sponsor: Ventura Missionary Church

Registrar: Lyz Klopman (805) 857-8985

Free Swimming Lessons

Free swimming lessons are being sponsored by the Oxnard Firefighters Foundation, Inc., at any of the five YMCA branches in Ventura County.

There are two ways to qualify:

1) Proof of financial assistance for food or for housing. Most forms of government financial assistance will qualify you.

2) If you do not receive government assistance, children can qualify for swim lessons based on good grades, community service, or a letter of recommendation from a teacher or civic leader.

Please contact the Oxnard Firefighters Foundation, Inc. at (805) 246-1261, or you can enroll online at www.oxnardswim.org.

Other Summer Activities for Children/Youth

Looking for other ideas on how to keep the kids busy this summer? Want to find out about what's going on throughout the county? Visit Parent Click at <http://ventura-ca.parentclick.com> and Macaroni Kid at www.camarillo.macaronikid.com and these Ventura County Summer Guides to stay in the loop!

Ventura County Summer Guide 2014: http://issuu.com/ventanamonthly/docs/vcr_summer_guide_2014

Ventura County Summer Camp Guide: <http://www.conejovalleyguide.com/welcome/over-140-summer-camps-and-programs-in-and-around-ventura-cou.html>

What's Goin' On? continued...

Children's Services Auxiliary Foster & Relative Caregiver Family Picnic
Saturday, July 12, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Freedom Park, Camarillo

The Children's Services Auxiliary of Ventura County invites you to a fun, family friendly picnic with arts, crafts, games, raffles and BBQ Lunch. Families are asked to bring a side dish. RSVP to Victoria at (805) 654-3220 or victoria.camacho@ventura.org by July 1, 2014.

5th Annual East County Foster & Relative Caregiver Family Picnic
Saturday, July 19, 1 - 4 p.m.
RSVP for Location

Join us for an afternoon of summertime fun. Every year we rent a water slide and will collect \$25/family to cover the rental. Please let us know how many in your family when you sign up for food. Bring chairs, towels and a change of clothes. Kids will get wet.

RSVP at www.perfectpotluck.com
Coordinator Last Name: Braswell
Password: 719 Contact Iris Braswell at john316@sbcglobal.net

Deep Sea Fishing Trip

August 1, 7:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Children 7+ are invited to attend! Children do not need to have fishing experience to participate. The Sports Fishing Club will provide instruction, equipment, and food for participants.

Please note: Children 16+ will need a fishing license (available at Big 5 & Wal-Mart). You can be reimbursed for the cost of the license! Space is limited. RSVP at (805) 654-3220 or victoria.camacho@ventura.org

Trust Based Relational Intervention
Saturday, September 6, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Camarillo Community Church
Learn how to connect and support the development of children in out-of-home care. Training credit provided.

Dr. Karyn Purvis is the Director of the Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University (TCU) and a national leader in developing research-based interventions for at-risk children.

Children & Bullying

Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-12 noon
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo
Learn how to recognize and address bullying with young people.



Free / Discounted Tutoring

Summer months are a time for play, as well as time to keep up what they learned during the school year. If your child needs additional support, the following tutoring resources are available to foster children for free: Tutorific: www.tutorific.org (805) 482-3730
School on Wheels: www.schoolonwheels.org (805) 641-1678

Spotlight on new Meals Ministry in West Ventura County

Having a new child come into your home is similar to becoming a new parent. If you live in either the Ventura, Oxnard or Camarillo areas and would like to receive a meal soon after your new placement, please contact Jessica, the Meal Ministry coordinator. Email: wer2beachtoroks@aol.com (Sponsored by Defending the Fatherless)



Respite Care through Channel Islands Social Services

Did you know that county foster parents are eligible for up to 12 hours of FREE respite care each month? Are you utilizing this great resource to take a break and care for yourself as a foster caregiver? Families caring for children ages 9 and under are automatically eligible and can contact Channel Islands Social Services directly at (805) 384 0983 to register. If you are caring for children over 9, you can contact Suria at 654- 5581 or suria.gottesman@ventura.org for case-by-case approval. If you are caring for a child with special or unique needs, please contact Suria to discuss respite care and a possible approval of additional hours.



Low to No Cost Preschool for Foster Children

The Easter Seals Child Development Center will have openings for children ages 2-5 beginning in August! Foster children typically qualify for very low or no cost services. Preschool schedule is dependent on the family's work or school schedule and will be determined at the time of application. Easter Seals also offers a part time program for children preparing for kindergarten! Apply early to ensure a spot in August! Families will be asked to provide a copy of their placement agreement, as well as verification of the amount of funding you are receiving to care for the child. Contact Caitlin Neely at 647-1141 ext. 11 for more information or to apply!



Orthodontic Grants Available for Dependent Minors

The Children's Services Auxiliary has capacity to apply for 5 Orthodontic Grants through The Change a Life Foundation each year. These grants are reserved for those youth who meet the foundation's criteria, have been denied by Medi-Cal and whose total need does not exceed \$5,000. There are currently only 2 names on this waiting list. If your child is in need of orthodontia, and has been denied by Medi-Cal, please speak to your social worker about requesting grant assistance through the Children's Services Auxiliary. Your case will be promptly reviewed and if all criteria are met, the child's name will be placed on the waiting list. Space is available on a first come first served basis, so please do not delay!



Laptops for Youth in Foster Care

The Children's Services Auxiliary (CSA) has several laptops available for youth ages 11-21 in the foster care system. If your child is in need of a laptop, please contact your child's social worker to submit a request on the child's behalf. The CSA will contact you within 60 days.

Foster Care Snapshot: The Critical Need Continues...

In the month of March 2014:

- A total of 1,238 cases were open with CFS.
- 44 new cases were referred and 21 cases were closed.
- We have 206 active County and Foster Family Agency homes.
- We have 209 Relative Caregiver homes.
- We welcomed 9 new foster homes into the CFS family!!

Please help us spread the word about the need for quality foster homes! Remember, foster parents are eligible to receive an incentive of \$100 for referring a family once they complete the licensing process and an additional \$100 once a child is placed in the new foster family's home! Contact your licensing analyst for more information!

Wellness Everyday

Have you visited Ventura County's Behavioral Health Wellness website? This site offers county residents free information about overall wellness and healthy living. Visit www.wellnesseveryday.org to learn about physical health, mental and behavioral health, parenting, community events, and school readiness.

For Prospective Foster Parents:

Online Information Session:

www.ventura.org/human-services-agency/online-informational-session

In-Person Information Session:

Tuesday, June 24, 6 - 8 p.m., 855 Partridge Drive, Ventura

Kids & Families Together Kinship Support Groups for Relative Caregivers

Oxnard: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
2201 Jasmine Street, Sierra Linda Elementary School

Oxnard: 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
2501 Gisler Avenue, Harrington Elementary School

Oxnard: 2nd Wednesday, 7 - 8 p.m.
1777 Statham Boulevard, St. Paul Baptist Church

Simi Valley: 2nd Thursday, 9:30 - 11 a.m.
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley Senior Center

Ventura: 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6 - 8 p.m.
856 E. Thompson Boulevard, Kids & Families Together Center

Thousand Oaks: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
401 Hodencamp Road, Senior Concerns

Please contact Noemi Hernandez at (805) 643-1446 x125
for more information and to sign up.

Foster Parent On-line Training

Foster Care & Adoptive Community <http://fosterparents.com>

Department of Washington Social & Health Services
www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp

Foster Parent College www.fosterparentcollege.com

Florida's Just in Time Training <http://jitfl.cbcs.usf.edu>

Foster Club www.fosterclub.com/booster/article/foster-parent-online-training

Useful Links

County of Ventura Foster Parents
www.vchsa.org/foster

CFS Independent Living Program
www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth

Children's Services Auxiliary
www.csavc.org

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates
www.casaofventuracounty.org

Channel Islands Social Services
www.islandsocialservices.org

California Youth Connection
<http://calyouthconn.org>

Kids & Families Together
www.kidsandfamilies.org

VC Foster Parent Association
www.vcfpa.com

Dark to Dawn
www.darktodawn.org

James Storehouse
<http://jamesstorehouse.org>

Women of Substance, Men of Honor
www.wosmohinc.com

Interface Children & Family Services
<http://icfs.org>

Aspiranet
www.aspiranet.org

Arrow Child & Family Ministries
www.arrow.org

Casa Pacifica
www.casapacifica.org

Koinonia Family Services
www.kfh.org

National Foster Parent Association
<http://nfpaonline.org>

TEACH Fund Scholarship
www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml

VCOE Foster Care Services
www.vcoe.org/Portals/VcsoPortals/spes/usersdata/FYS%20Brochure.pdf

Neighborhoods for Learning
<http://first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning>

Child Development Resources
www.childdevelopmentresources.org

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center
<http://rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com>

Macaroni Kid
www.camarillo.macaronikid.com

Parent Click
<http://ventura-ca.parentclick.com>