



## Foster Health Link is *Here!*

Foster Health Link is a new website and mobile application that provides foster parents and caregivers with health information about children in their care. The goal is for information to be shared electronically among the care team to better meet the needs of the children. Key features of the application include the following: Electronic Health and Education Passport; mobile application; secure access for caregivers and social workers; access to health information from the Ventura County Health Care Agency for children up to age 11 who have received care through the Ventura County Network of clinics and hospitals; access to the Network of Care or resource library of articles, medical definitions, and local resources to better understand the needs of children.

Only caregivers with email addresses will be able to access Foster health Link so be sure to contact us at Foster VC Kids to confirm we have your email address. Training and information on how to use Foster Health Link is available at <http://fostervckids.org/fhl/>.



## Attention Kinship Caregivers!

Want to be entered into a raffle for a free Costco membership and a \$500 gift certificate to go shopping with? All it takes is a few minutes of your time! iFoster, one of our resource partners, is seeking information about our kinship caregivers. If you are already an iFoster member and did not participate in the study already OR you haven't signed up for a Free iFoster Membership, please go to [iFoster.org](http://iFoster.org) or call 1-855-9FOSTER (936-7837) and complete the demographic survey before September 30, 2015. You will also have the chance to let iFoster know what other resources you would like to see in the resource portal!

### CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Retention, & Support Info Line	654-3220	General Info Emergency Response and Court Units	654-3444
RDS Manager	654-5594	General Info Ongoing Units	240-2700
Licensing	955-2274	General Info East County	955-2290
Relative Approval	654-3422	General Information Central Programs	654-3405
Placement Coordinators	654-3211, 654-3217 or 654-3216	Children's Services Auxiliary (CSA)	654-3245
Placement Vacancy Line	289-1900	CSA Reimbursements	289-1926
Adoptions	385-9158	Field Based Case Aids	654-3449 or 289-1989
Youth Services Division	385-9146	ILP Coordinators	385-9114 or 385-9143
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	981-5373	Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	654-5536		

# School Matters!

Before you know it, it will be time to get back into the school routine. The Foster VC Kids team wants to take this opportunity to discuss the importance of school stability in the lives of children in foster care. One of our goals is to continue to support children in remaining in their schools of origin/neighborhood schools. 1 in 10 students change schools three times or more. Even more startling is the fact that, as a group, foster care students experience an achievement gap similar to English language learners and children with disabilities and have the highest dropout rates. One factor to also consider is how a school change would impact the child as he/she moves towards reunifying with his/her family. Depending on where the school is, it may affect the visitation schedule, medical appointments or other services being provided. Many parents retain their children's education rights and should be involved in educational decisions, meetings, and activities-enrolling the child in a different school may create additional barriers to this participation. Finally, enrolling a child in a school that is outside of his/her community origin will also likely lead to yet another school change when he/she goes home. We can do better for the children of Ventura County! Before taking a child into your home, please talk to the placement coordinators about the school the child has most recently attended and plan to continue this enrollment. If it is outside of where you are able to transport, consider waiting for a child that you are a better match for or developing a plan for transportation support with the social worker. If you are able to transport the child, or have a network of support that can help, you may be eligible for the educational transportation reimbursement. For more information about the impact of school changes on children, please visit <http://www.stuartfoundation.org/docs/default-document-library/the-invisible-achievement-gap-report>.



## Needs and Services Plan

Many important family conversations about feelings, how the day went, and the plan for tomorrow take place in the car between destinations. Foster VC Kids sees transportation to and from visits, medical appointments, and school as a critical time for connection and support between a child and his foster caregivers. With this in mind, Foster VC Kids has updated the Needs and Services plan to reflect our desire for partnership within the system. That means the new Needs and Services Plan will have a place for you to tell the social worker when you are generally available for activities such as transporting a child to visits, school, the doctor, and other appointments. Transportation is integral to the high quality parenting that all children deserve and benefit from. We understand that last minute visits and transportation requests are difficult upon our caregivers. This change to the Needs and Services Plan will allow us to take note of your schedule early on. Thank you for the care and nurture you give to children in this and many other ways!

## Expanded Mental Health Services Now Available

We are excited to announce that, as part of the county's implementation of Katie A., Ventura County Behavioral Health and its partner community based organizations now offer specialized mental health services for children 0-5! Mental health services for this population are critical for assisting in attachment, social-emotional development, and trauma. These kinds of services require caregiver participation, as healing with young children is most effective in the context of a caregiver-child relationship. Services will also offer education to caregivers about development and managing behaviors. If you have concerns about a child in your care, regardless of age, please talk to the child's social worker and request that the child be screened and referred for assessment, when appropriate.

# Partnership is the *Key to Success*

One of the main goals of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) is to improve the quality of partnerships within the foster care system. This means partnership between foster parents, extended family, social workers, service providers, and birth parents. Foster VC Kids understands that partnership skills are skills that need to be developed and supported, and that expectations of all team members need to be clear. In order to improve our local practices, Foster VC Kids is in the process of adapting the QPI California Partnership Agreement for Children in Out-of-Home Care so that it addresses local partnership goals. This agreement articulates a common understanding of the expectations between foster parents and social workers, and will be used as a guide for how we all work together. It is our hope that this agreement will create mutual understanding of how to work in the best interests of the children we all care deeply for. To view the agreement we are adapting to meet our local foster care needs, please visit [www.qpicalifornia.com](http://www.qpicalifornia.com) and click on Documents. Stay tuned for the roll out of our specific partnership agreement!



## Annual California Quality Parenting Conference Coming to *Ventura County!*

Ventura County has been chosen to host the 2015 California QPI Conference. Join foster and relative caregivers, county staff and foster care leaders from across the state to discuss and learn about the latest approaches to quality, trauma informed care and how we can continue to improve our partnership on behalf of children in foster care. Special guests include Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Social Services and Jennifer Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Youth Law Center. Please plan to join us on Thursday, September 24th and Friday, September 25th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ventura! The conference will include a welcome

reception, keynote addresses from state and local foster care leaders, networking meals, and small group discussions on topics relevant to quality care and partnership. The Foster VC Kids would love for our caregivers to join us at the conference! If you are interested in participating, we have some limited scholarships available. To view video footage from the recent national conference held in San Diego, visit <http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/qpi/2015conference/index.html>. For more information or to register for the September Conference, contact us at [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto:fostervckids@ventura.org). Childcare is available. \*Up to 8 hours of annual training hours are available.



# The RDS Unit is Growing!

The Recruitment, Development, & Support Unit welcomed three new Community Services Coordinators back in the Fall. Please meet our newer staff:

*Tami Barnett* received her JD from Pepperdine University and has worked the last 10 years as a lawyer in Child Welfare & Family Law. She is also the founding director of RaisingHope, a local non-profit which raises funds for children in foster care through an annual race in Ventura County. Last year, the Hope4Kids run and festival raised \$40,000 to support resources for foster children and caregivers. She departed from her legal career in order to focus upon her passion for identifying and securing resources and support for children in care and recruitment of quality caregivers. Tami is currently working on our recruitment efforts, as well as developing our Faith in Motion community partnerships.

*Cynthia Hutchinson* holds a Masters in Public Administration degree. Cynthia joins us from Sacramento, where she worked as the Sacramento County Child Protective Services Community Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator with the Child Abuse Prevention Center. In these roles, Cynthia provided outreach and support to foster caregivers and recruited, trained and managed volunteers for community outreach and education activities regarding the needs of children in foster care. Cynthia also worked as an FKCE trainer through the America River College, developing and facilitating courses on behavioral management and child rearing practices with children in foster care. Cynthia brings internal knowledge of the field, herself a seasoned foster parent previously licensed in Sacramento County. One of Cynthia's main roles is working directly with caregivers and offering support and resources. She also facilitates our Ventura networking groups.

*Vicky Gonzales* is a local Ventura County resident and joins RDS from Ventura County Public Health where she worked as a Community Services Coordinator responsible for coordinating the county's Center for Disease Control's Community Transformation Grant. Vicky was highly successful in engaging partners and coalitions to address health disparities through the county, training and recruiting community members in partnership activities and policy scans, and mobilizing community members for advocacy, education, community building and empowerment activities. Vicky served as the Executive Director of the Coalition for Community Development, serving specifically the needs of the La Colonia Neighborhood in Oxnard. Vicky brings internal knowledge of child welfare, having served as a licensed foster, adoptive and relative caregiver. Vicky is working hard to develop resources and supports that meet the needs of our Spanish speaking caregivers. She also facilitates our Spanish Speaking networking group in Ventura.

RDS has also added new support staff! They are:

*Alison Young* joins us as the new Central Programs Clerical Supervisor. Alison is coming from Behavioral Health where she was instrumental in improving administrative and tracking systems for multiple programs. Alison will be working primarily with the Foster Caregiver Recruitment, Development and Support, Relative Approval, and Placement units. She will also support our caregiver call line 654-3220. *Stefanie Hadjoglou, Sierra Walsh & Victoria Castro* have joined the RDS unit as our support staff team members. They will be supporting caregivers and our unit with a range of projects including our caregiver resource referral processes and supporting our caregiver call line.

*Thank you Foster VC Kids Team!*

## Learning from the Research & Babies...

Researchers from the RIKEN Brain Science Institute in Japan found that calming in infants was related to the tactile (touch) and proprioceptive (body movement and position in space) input they experience by being held. This explains why, when they are put down, infants resume crying and require more support in calming and regulating. Some caregivers interpret this as the child's attempt to "manipulate" the caregiver into holding him/her and fear "spoiling" the child by picking him back up. Given the new research available, it may be more accurate to see the child's renewed crying as a response related to the lack of sensorimotor input. This may ease caregiver frustration and offer an opportunity to identify strategies to meet a child's sensorimotor and bonding needs! For more information and a link to the research, visit <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-athletes-way/201304/the-neuroscience-calming-baby>.

# Notes from Our Nurses:

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) today's children are spending an average of seven hours a day on entertainment media including televisions, computers, phones and other electronic devices. Although technology has many positive uses and can provide helpful information, studies have shown that excessive media use can lead to attention deficit problems, school difficulties, sleep and eating disorders and obesity, not to mention access to platforms that promote or glamorize illicit and/or risky behavior. This can add to challenges many of our children already face due to their histories.

Now that the new school year is upon us, this would be the perfect opportunity to start limiting media screen time with our children. The AAP recommends that parents establish "screen-free" zones at home by making sure there are no televisions, computers or video games in children's bedrooms and by turning off the TV during dinner. The AAP also recommends no more than 2 hours of media a day for children and adolescents and avoiding media altogether for children under the age of 2 years as a child's brain develops rapidly during these first 2 years and young children learn best by interacting with people, not screens.

Some things to remember when it comes to monitoring your family's screen time include:

1. **Social Interaction. Personal interactions with others are limited and social and conversational skills are affected. Kids need contact with other kids in order to develop healthy relationships with each other.**
2. **Physical Health. Too much time sitting promotes poor eating habits and lack of physical exercise. Being too focused on a video game or computer activity interferes with intentional healthy eating. A child is more likely to snack on foods that aren't nutritious.**
3. **Learning. Studies have shown that children who spend more than 2 hours a day in front of the TV have a more limited vocabulary, homework problems and are more at risk for attention deficit disorder.**
4. **Sleep Problems. Many kids take their phones or computers to bed with them. The hours before bedtime can make the difference between a good night of sleep or interrupted sleep. The lights from these devices trick the brain into thinking its daylight, as well as cause over-stimulation.**

Although limiting media/television time may seem difficult if not completely daunting at first, it will get easier. You can try cutting down by an hour a week or simply go cold turkey. Visit <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/pages/media-and-children.aspx> to read more! Go to <http://healthyventuracounty.org/healthy-kids/>



# Co-Parenting

Children do better when the adults in their lives are working and parenting together. This is especially true for children in foster care. Many children experience anxiety about who they should listen to, which rules are really important, and what kinds of behaviors are appropriate and when. Co-parenting is often thought of as being between parents who are no longer married. 21st Century Foster Parenting, Foster VC Kids' new pre-service training, expands this concept to the partnership between foster and birth families. Co-parenting is an expectation of quality foster care because of the positive outcomes associated with effective co-parenting.

All relationships take time to build, and the co-parenting one is no different. By starting off with facilitated meetings or phone calls, birth and foster parents can begin to work together to discuss a child's preferences, needs, strengths, education, health, and behavior. All of this information is critical not only to the foster parent supporting the child during out of home care, but also in transitioning the child back home. When foster parents and birth parents discuss expectations, discipline, and routines, they are sharing important information that will support healthier development in the children we all care about.

One of the Foster VC Kids QPI initiatives will be piloting a new visitation model that will include foster parents and birth parents working together for better child outcomes. This model, called ABC-V, has been developed from the evidence based early

childhood mental health intervention called Attachment, & Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC). ABC-V is all about supporting positive parent-child relationships through play-based interactions, education, and partnership. Keep your eyes out for more info about the Foster VC Kids roll out of ABC-V. For more information about ABC and co-parenting, visit the Attachment and Working with Birth Families sections of <http://www.qpicalifornia.org/pages/TopicIndex.shtml>. You may also watch the following ABC-V video: <http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/qpi/abc-v/start1.html>.



## Family Fun Opportunities!

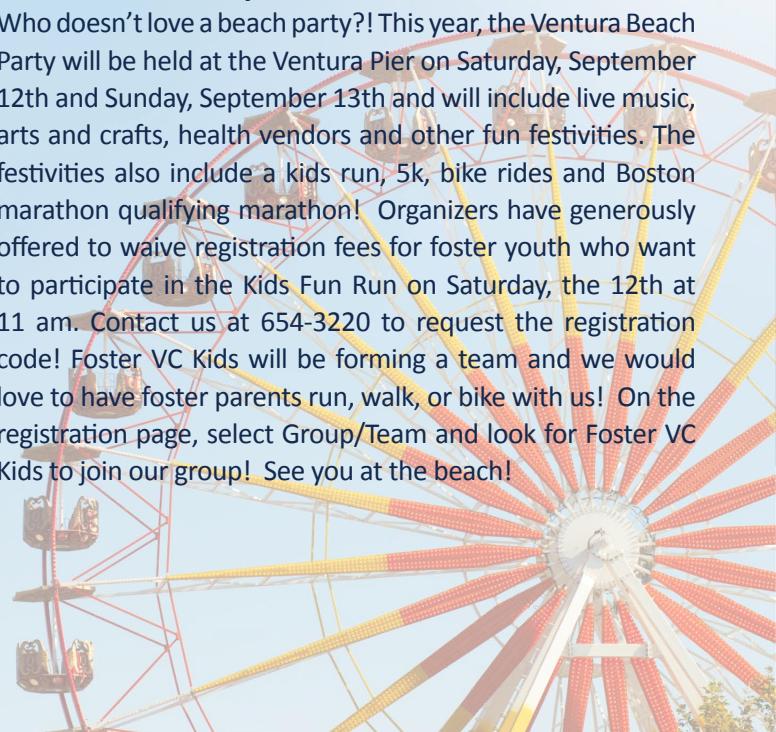
### Children's Services Auxiliary Fair Days

Seaside Park and the Children's Services Auxiliary invite you to attend the Ventura County Fair! Special days and times have been arranged to grant foster and relative caregiver families free admittance to the fair. Please know this applies only to fair entry and does not include food, rides, games or parking. In order to allow every family to take advantage of this great opportunity, we must ask each foster family to visit the fair on only ONE of the dates and times listed here:

For free entry, please join the CSA between 12-12:30 pm on August 8 or August 10 or between 6-6:30 pm on August 13 or August 14. Plan to arrive during the appointed times to make sure you don't miss out. When you arrive, look for a volunteer holding a red heart that says "CSA" or is wearing a red CSA shirt. Please do not contact the fairgrounds for questions regarding this event. You may contact Joan Gendreau at (805) 642-4436 for information about Foster and Relative Caregiver Fair Days. Enjoy!

### Ventura Beach Party

Who doesn't love a beach party?! This year, the Ventura Beach Party will be held at the Ventura Pier on Saturday, September 12th and Sunday, September 13th and will include live music, arts and crafts, health vendors and other fun festivities. The festivities also include a kids run, 5k, bike rides and Boston marathon qualifying marathon! Organizers have generously offered to waive registration fees for foster youth who want to participate in the Kids Fun Run on Saturday, the 12th at 11 am. Contact us at 654-3220 to request the registration code! Foster VC Kids will be forming a team and we would love to have foster parents run, walk, or bike with us! On the registration page, select Group/Team and look for Foster VC Kids to join our group! See you at the beach!



# Licensing Corner

## First off, thank you for being licensed foster homes!

The Foster VC Kids Licensing Unit will conduct ANNUAL home inspections on all County Foster Family Homes effective July 1, 2015. Foster Parents will be notified via letter or telephone call prior to their inspection date. Verification of required training is to be provided at the time of the inspection {8 hours of training and updated CPR/First Aid for each Licensee 89405(a), (b) (1-2)}. If you need more training hours, contact us at 805-654-3220 for support or go to our website for training opportunities: [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org).

In order to maintain an active Foster Family License, the annual home inspection is **required** and the home must continue to meet all requirements set forth in the Manual of Policies & Procedures for Foster Family Homes (Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 9.5) **regardless** of whether there are any active placements or not. If a home is currently on a voluntary placement hold, they must comply with all Licensing requirements.

## A few reminders to keep you in Compliance:

**CHANGES TO LICENSE** (Section 89234(a); 89234(b)(1); 89234(b)(2); 89234(b)(3); 89234(c); 89234(d))

A new application must be submitted to the licensing agency

whenever there is ANY change to the following: conditions or limitations described on current license, change in the home licensing category or change that effects the capacity of the home.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS** (Section 89361(9)(A); Section 89361(9)(B); Section 89361(9)(C))

Licensees are responsible for reporting the following to their licensing program analyst:

1. All changes in household composition
2. Any additions to the caregiver's family, including finalized adoptions or guardianships, becoming a conservator, or new biological children
3. ANY adult moving in or out of the home (MUST obtain Criminal Record Clearance)
4. Anyone living in the home who reaches their 18th birthday (MUST obtain Criminal Record Clearance)

**CIVIL PENALTIES** (Section 89254(a); Section 89254(a)(1); Section 89254(a)(2))

Penalties will be assessed when the required fingerprint clearances are not obtained PRIOR to adult moving into the home or any adult living in the home who reaches their 18th birthday.

## Licensing Q&As?

Want more information about maintaining compliance? Have questions about a regulation? Unclear about how we handle complaints and allegations? Join the Foster VC Kids networking meetings in August for training with our licensing team. Trainings will take place Tuesday, August 25th at 7 pm or Wednesday, August 26th at 10 am. Both meetings will be held at Ventura Missionary Church and will have childcare. See our What's Goin' On section for more information!

## Ask Foster VC Kids!

We know that many questions come up as caregivers. Chances are if you need clarification, there's at least a handful of caregivers who have the same questions. Foster VC Kids wants you to submit your questions, big and small, to [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto:fostervckids@ventura.org) so that we can answer them in the newsletter and spread the word. We'll incorporate your questions into future editions!

Foster 

VC Kids

Ventura County Children & Family Services

# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

*Please don't forget* to visit our Events calendar at [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org) for up-to-date information on training, networking groups, and other events. Be sure to also "like" **Foster VC Kids on Facebook** to get regular updates about training, other Foster VC Kids events & read caregiver kudos.

## **Foster Parent Support Group**

**Sunday, August 2nd and Sunday, August 16th**

Support from your peer foster parents is critical to your success! One of our long time foster parents, Amanda Bowles, has created a new support group that is open to caregivers! The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Amanda at (805)320-6705 or amanda.bowles86@gmail.com for the time and location.

## **Life Space Crisis Intervention**

**Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 9:00 am-3:00 pm, 975 Flynn Rd, Camarillo**

This course introduces a child and youth care method for nurturing insight and self-awareness in young people who are stuck in patterns of ineffective behavior. Participants engage in case studies, guided practice, and group discussion about six specific behavioral patterns: displaced emotions, misperceptions, lagging social skills, bullying, impulsivity, and destructive peer relationships. Topics include: how stress impacts the brain and learning, factors that launch conflict into an ongoing cycle, listening and validation skills, the use of questions to increase self-awareness, and the stages of effective intervention. Course meets on the following days: August 6, 7, 26, 27, & 28. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/life-space-crisis-intervention-tickets-17399153336>

## **The PersonBrain Model**

**Thursday, August 13 & Friday, August 14, 2015 at 9:00 am-4:00 pm, 975 Flynn Rd, Camarillo**

Shifting from common deficit or strictly behavioral models, this two-day course presents a practice model for "therapeutic helpers" (e.g. educators, child & youth care workers, foster parents) based on the workings of various brain systems and equips participants with a practical framework for short-term, momentary management and long-term planning for young people who may have experienced relational stress, trauma, or disrupted relationships. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-personbrain-model-tickets-17401773172>

## **CASA of Ventura County In-Service Training: Advocating for LGBTQ Youth**

**Thursday, August 20th, 6:00-8:00 pm, RSVP for location**

Join the CASA team for a presentation from Janet Barron about advocating for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) youth. RSVP to Janet@casaofventuracounty.org or call (805)389-3120.

## **Evening West County Foster Parent Networking**

**Tuesday, August 25th, 6:00 pm-8:00pm, Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)**

**Topic: Licensing Booster and Q&A's** Join us for this special training from our licensing team. They will be providing us a booster of annual requirements, maintaining compliance, and an overview of complaint investigations. Please RSVP to Elisa at [elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:elisa.carreno@ventura.org) or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.





# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

## Morning West County Foster Parent Networking

*Wednesday, August 26th, 10am – 12pm,  
Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point  
Dr, Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

**Topic: Licensing Booster and Q&A's** Join us for this special training from our licensing team. They will be providing us a booster of annual requirements, maintaining compliance, and an overview of complaint investigations. Please RSVP to Elisa at [elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:elisa.carreno@ventura.org) or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

## The Therapeutic Use of Daily Events

*Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 9:00 am-  
3:00 pm, 975 Flynn Rd, Camarillo*

This course explores the use of everyday life events, as they are occurring, for therapeutic purposes. It provides a framework of supporting others in moving to a place of less pain and trouble – or simply towards the next step in their development. Topics include recognizing daily life events, themes, and opportunities, characteristics of relational child and youth care, the process of change, and the elements of intervention. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-therapeutic-use-of-daily-life-events-tickets-17362483656>

## The PersonBrain Model

*Thursday, September 3 & Friday, September 4, 2015  
at 9:00 am-4:00 pm, 975 Flynn Rd, Camarillo*

Shifting from common deficit or strictly behavioral models, this two-day course presents a practice model for “therapeutic helpers” (e.g. educators, child & youth care workers, foster parents) based on the workings of various brain systems and equips participants with a practical framework for short-term, momentary management and long-term planning for young people who may have experienced relational stress, trauma, or disrupted relationships. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-personbrain-model-tickets-17402804256>

## Foster Parent Support Group

*Sunday, September 6th and Sunday, September 20th*

Support from your peer foster parents is critical to your success! One of our long time foster parents, Amanda Bowles, has created a new support group that is open to caregivers! The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Amanda at 805-320-6705 or [amanda.bowles86@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.bowles86@gmail.com) for the time and location.

## CASA of Ventura County In-Service Training: Working with Defiant Children

*Thursday, September 17th, 6:00-  
8:00 pm, RSVP for location*

Join the CASA team for a presentation from Dr. Jennifer Bailey. RSVP to [Janet@casaofventuracounty.org](mailto:Janet@casaofventuracounty.org) or call (805)389-3120.

## Quality Parenting Initiative State Conference

*Thursday, September 24 & Friday, September  
25, 2015, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ventura*

Join the California QPI counties for our annual convening! This conference will include a welcome reception, key note speakers, and breakout sessions to address a range of foster care topics! Ventura County caregivers are able to request a scholarship to attend the conference! Contact [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto:fostervckids@ventura.org) if you are interested in hearing more about QPI, the work of all the counties involved, and to share your thoughts on how to continue to improve our system. Stay tuned for more info about the conference!

## The PersonBrain Model

*Thursday, September 24 & Friday, September 25,  
2015, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, 975 Flynn Rd, Camarillo*

Shifting from common deficit or strictly behavioral models, this two-day course presents a practice model for “therapeutic helpers” (e.g. educators, child & youth care workers, foster parents) based on the workings of various brain systems and equips participants with a practical framework for short-term, momentary management and long-term planning for young people who may have experienced relational stress, trauma, or disrupted relationships. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-personbrain-model-tickets-17402821307>



# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

## Evening West County Foster Parent Networking

**Tuesday, September 29th, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm,  
Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point  
Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)**

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP to Elisa at [elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:elisa.carreno@ventura.org) or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

## Morning West County Foster Parent Networking

**Wednesday, September 30th, 10:00 am – 12:00  
pm, Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High  
Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)**

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP to Elisa at [elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:elisa.carreno@ventura.org) or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

## Upcoming Informational Session for Prospective Foster Parents

**Tuesday, August 4th from 6:00 pm-8:00  
pm at 855 Partridge Dr., Ventura**

**Wednesday, August 19th from 6:00 pm-  
8:00 pm at 855 Partridge Dr., Ventura**

**Saturday, September 12th from 6:00 pm-  
8:00 pm at 855 Partridge Dr., Ventura**

**Tuesday, September 22nd from 6:00 pm-8:00  
pm at 970 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley**

*Families can also complete the informational session online*

## Kinship Parenting for Relative Care Givers (Walk-ins welcome!)

Kinship care is the full or part-time parenting of children by grandparents or other relatives. These training groups will explore the practical issues related to parenting a second generation and provide tools and support to help you get and keep your bearing along the way. **No RSVP needed.** For further information, email [kssp@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:kssp@kidsandfamilies.org).

### Oxnard Resource Group

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month,  
6:00 pm-7:30 pm, Sierra Linda Elementary  
School, 2201 Jasmine Street, Oxnard

### Ventura Resource Group

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month,  
6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Kids & Families Together  
856 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura

### Simi Valley Resource Group

3rd Wednesday of each month,  
6:00-8:00pm, Simi Valley Senior Center,  
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

### Thousand Oaks Resource Group

2nd Tuesday of each month,  
6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Senior Concerns, 401  
Hodencamp Rd. Thousand Oaks

### Camarillo Resource Group

4th Wednesday of each month,  
6:00 pm-8:00 pm, at CISS,  
5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G, Camarillo

### Santa Paula Resource Group (Bilingual)

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month  
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm, SPHS 404 N. 6th  
St. Room 114, Santa Paula

# Foster Care Snapshot:

## *The Critical Need Continues...*

*In the Month of May:* There were 899 children in out of home placement  
301 children were in foster care placements (County and FFA).  
369 children were in kinship/relative care placements.  
100 children in guardian homes  
14 finalized adoptions (91 Fiscal year to date)  
79 children remained in group homes  
51% of siblings are separated from each other  
We welcomed 2 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!**

### *Useful Links*

**Foster VC Kids**  
[fostervckids.org](http://fostervckids.org)  
**iFoster**  
[www.ifoster.org](http://www.ifoster.org)

**CFS Independent Living Program**  
[www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth](http://www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth)  
**Children's Services Auxiliary**  
[www.csavc.org](http://www.csavc.org)

**CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates**  
[www.casaofventuracounty.org/](http://www.casaofventuracounty.org/)  
**Channel Islands Social Services**  
[www.islandsocialservices.org/](http://www.islandsocialservices.org/)  
**California Youth Connection**  
[www.cal-youthconn.org/](http://www.cal-youthconn.org/)  
**Hope 4 Kids Festival & Run**  
<http://www.hope4kids.myevent.com/>

**Kids & Families Together**  
[www.kidsandfamilies.org/](http://www.kidsandfamilies.org/)  
**VC Foster Parent Association**  
[www.vcfpa.com/](http://www.vcfpa.com/)  
**Dark to Dawn**  
[www.darktodawn.org/](http://www.darktodawn.org/)

**James Storehouse**  
[www.jamesstorehouse.org/](http://www.jamesstorehouse.org/)  
**Women of Substance, Men of Honor**  
[www.wosmohinc.com/](http://www.wosmohinc.com/)  
**Interface Children & Family Services**  
[www.icfs.org](http://www.icfs.org)  
**Aspiranet**  
[www.aspiranet.org/](http://www.aspiranet.org/)  
**Arrow Child & Family Ministries**  
[www.arrow.org/](http://www.arrow.org/)  
**Casa Pacifica**  
[www.casapacifica.org/](http://www.casapacifica.org/)  
**Koinonia Family Services**  
[www.kfh.org/](http://www.kfh.org/)  
**National Foster Parent Association**  
[www.nfpaonline.org/](http://www.nfpaonline.org/)  
**TEACH Fund Scholarship**  
[www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml](http://www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml)  
**VC Office of Education Foster Care Services**  
[www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx](http://www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx)  
**Neighborhoods for Learning**  
[www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning](http://www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning)

**Child Development Resources**  
[www.childdevelopmentresources.org/](http://www.childdevelopmentresources.org/)  
**Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center**  
[www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com/](http://www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com/)  
**Macaroni Kid**  
[www.camarillo.macaronikid.com/](http://www.camarillo.macaronikid.com/)  
**Parent Click**  
[www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com/](http://www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com/)

### *Foster Parent Training Sites*

**Foster Care & Adoptive Community**  
[www.fosterparents.com/](http://www.fosterparents.com/)  
**Foster Parent College**  
[www.fosterparentcollege.com/](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/)  
**California's Just in Time Training**  
[www.qpicalifornia.com](http://www.qpicalifornia.com)  
**Foster Club**  
[www.fosterclub.com/\\_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training](http://www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training)  
**Centpatco U**  
<http://www.cenpatcoU.com>