



the foster NETWORK



Summer 2018

Changes in children's behavior, before and after visits.

Visits between foster children and their biological parents are important. These visits allow children to maintain contact with their birth family. Studies suggest that the more of the visits the foster children have, the more positively they view their birth parents and the shorter their stays in foster care are likely to be. These visits also help social workers and juvenile courts gauge how well birth parents are responding to efforts to help them regain custody and what additional steps might be necessary to return the child to the family. Sometimes visits can be difficult for foster children, birth parents, and foster parents. For a number of reasons, children can suffer before during, and after visits with their birth parents. Preparation and coping strategies can help with the child's issues and behaviors.

Understanding a foster child's response to birth parent visits

There are no foolproof ways to guarantee that visits between children and their birth parents will be successful. Knowing about behaviors, you might see and taking a few steps to prepare a child and facilitate the visit should help.

Before-visit symptoms. Children can be affected knowing that a visit with their birth parents is approaching. Here are some of the symptoms you might see in your child before the visit:

- Nightmares and sleep disturbances.
- Unrealistic expectations about how the visit will go.
- Anxiety.

After-visit symptoms. Children can experience a variety of feelings after visiting with their birth parents. They also might behave in ways that are difficult to cope with. Some feelings and behaviors you might see include:

- Nightmares and sleep disturbances.
- Crying, sometimes excessively.
- Sadness or Disappointment.
- Acting out, such as stomping feet, displaying antisocial behavior, and ignoring family members.

After-visit symptoms, continued

- Anger.
- Ambivalence.
- Withdrawal.
- Anxiety.

Preparing for the visit. It is important to do what you can to prepare the children for a visit with birth parents. Here are some suggestions:

- Make the necessary changes in your family's schedule to accommodate the visit.
- Work with the birth parents to plan and schedule visits.
- Keep the child informed of planned visits.
- Have some special before-visit rituals to comfort the child, such as arranging special clothes or fixing the child's hair in a particular way.

Continued on the next page

CFS Contacts

Adoptions	240-2700
CFS Hotline	654-3200
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	240-2700
CSA Reimbursement	654-3220
Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409
Field Based Case Aids	654-3444
Recruitment, Development, & Support Info Line	654-3220
General Information East County	955-2290
General Information Emergency Response & Court Units	654-3444

General Information Family Support and Collaboration (Formerly Central Programs)

General Information Ongoing Units:	240-2700
ILP Coordinators	240-2700
Licensing	654-3405
Placement Vacancy Line	289-1900
RDS Manager	654-5594
Relative Approval	654-3405
RFA Officer of the Day	654-3405
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	289-9308
Youth Services Division	240-2700

Preparing for the visit, continued

- Be realistic with the child about which family members will and will not be at the visits—for example, mom only, mom and dad, grandparents, etc.
- Be open about which non-family members will be at the visit. These might include a social worker, other caseworkers, yourself, etc.
- Provide extra emotional support to your child before the visit.
- Make a game out of before-visit time. You might, for example, let the children “play the social worker” by having them ask questions and play the role.
- Find out what the child would like to do at the visit and try to arrange the activity. If his or her idea is not realistic, work with him or her to come up with a more practical plan.
- Talk about any items—toys, books, etc.—they would like to take to the visit.

Facilitating visits. You always should try your best to make visits between children and their birth parents go smoothly. Here are a few steps you can take that might help:

- Try to have the visit take place in your home or in the birth parents’ home rather than in an agency office.
- Volunteer to provide transportation to and from visits.
- Help birth parents by being a model of appropriate parenting behavior.
- Reinforce the birth parents’ confidence in their parenting skills when they show positive change.
- Respect the birth parents and treat them fairly.
- When appropriate or necessary, observe visits.
- Be careful when talking about the birth parents. Try to be positive.

After-visit support. There may be some circumstances that occur that need attention after the visit. Here are some suggestions for handling the period after the visit.

- Let the child talk about how he or she feels about the visit and parents.
- Encourage questions about the visit or the foster situation. Answer them as honestly as possible.
- Reassure the children about any issues they might be concerned about.
- Explain that you understand it can be difficult to visit parents for a little while and then have to leave them again.
- If possible, let the child know when the next visit is scheduled. Ask your child what kinds of activities he or she would like to do at the next visit.
- Regardless of how the visit went, spend additional time nurturing the child and showing extra affection, especially when a visit does not go well.
- If the child is consistently unhappy or distressed after visits, report this to the social worker.
- Report any suspicion of child abuse immediately.

When a visit is canceled. A canceled visit can be hard on a child. Here are ways to support and comfort the child when that happens:

- When telling the child about a canceled visit, do not blame. Simply explain that the parent made certain choices, the social worker had to reschedule, etc.
- Assure the child that he or she is not the reason the visit was canceled, he or she did not do anything wrong, and he or she is still loved.
- Try to do the activity with the child that was planned with the parents, if possible.
- Spend extra time with the child.

When to seek professional help. Changes in a child’s behavior after a visit do not necessarily mean the visit hurt the child. The change might, for example, mean the child has a secure attachment with the parent and that he or she is upset about having to leave the parent again. However, if the behavior changes are severe or overly disruptive to the foster family, professional help may be necessary, and the situation should be brought to the attention of the child’s social worker.

A publication of the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development made possible with help from the Frank and Theresa Caplan Fund for Early Childhood Development and Parenting Education. Additional topics in the You and Your Foster Child series are available at www.education.pitt.edu/ocd/publications/fosterparent.



FAMILIA

Foster VC Kids invites you to our
SPANISH INFORMATIONAL MEETING

**SATURDAY
JUNE 30TH** | **10am to 11:30am**
At the Consulate of Mexico
3151 West 5th Street in Oxnard

Come learn about becoming a resource foster family to help local children and teens in Ventura County who are in urgent need of a safe, stable and loving home environment. You’ll meet other parents, caregivers and former foster youth who will share their special stories of what *familia* means to them.

For more info call **(805)654-3220**



The Importance of Attending Medical Appointments with Biological Parents

By Mary Quinting, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

Resource Families play a big role in building the success of our families. Including biological parents in medical, dental and developmental care is an important step in assuring the future health and safety of our children.

A Resource Family's opportunities to support our youth and families are endless. Many of our foster children are behind with medical, dental and developmental care. Inviting biological parents to attend appointments is vital to understanding the child's health history and ensuring long-term health for our children. Resource Families model valuable skills in obtaining and following up on health care. Including parents in these important visits with their pediatricians and other health care providers allows them to begin to obtain a better understanding of their child's health status, as well as any treatments or life style changes that need to be undertaken.

Attending well child exams on schedule is an important preventative care measures that can help identify health concerns in their early stages. When a parent sees the value you place on following through with the pediatrician's recommendations and making sure that you attend appointments on schedule, you are modeling timely interactions with the health care system. When possible, keeping children with their own pediatrician is encouraged; it provides continuity of care with a clinician that has a history with the child, and helps support an ongoing relationship between the medical provider and the family.

Resource Families model good record keeping, they show how to make and keep appointments, and how to ask questions during an appointment when more information is needed to clarify an issue. As Public Health Nurses, we help to reinforce these valuable skills by helping parents keep health care binders and calendars. We encourage them to share their understanding of their child's current health status, so that we can ensure they have correct information.

Biological parents often retain the right to make medical decisions. Building a partnership between Resource families and Biological families can help facilitate the understanding of a child's medical needs and ensure follow through with required treatment and care. Resource Families can encourage parents to be a source of comfort and support for their child during immunizations, exams and treatments and should include them as part of the treatment team.

You may also see the Public Health Nurses at these appointments. Remember, we are here to help you and the parents through challenges with obtaining and understanding health care, please let us know if we can assist you.



Call for Action!

To all of our wonderful resource families who are co-parenting with birth families – We want to hear from you! We would love to talk to you more about your experiences and successes and share your stories. Please contact Jaci Johnson at 805-289-1948 or email her at Jaci.Johnson@Ventura.org



Kudos Corner

Laurie and Andre N.

Recently, the baby that was placed with them started a 60 day extended visit and reunification with mom. Laurie has gone above and beyond, providing supports and becoming a network of care while still babysitting the infant. Laurie and Andre have asked to be on voluntary hold for a while so that they could be available to bio mom as the baby transitions back home. Thank you both for showing us what an amazing experience co-parenting can be! – Betty C.

Maureen W.

Your willingness to jump in feet first in to creating a foster ministry within your church is astounding! The desire you have to share your stories and help get more families involved with foster care and caregiving is not only helpful, but life changing. Thank you for all you are doing! – Crystal S.

Robin C.

I would like to recognize Robin for her devotion to our children. Robin has been a foster family for over 20 years and she is such a strong advocate for our children to make sure they get the education and services they need to be successful. Her ability to be open, flexible, and knowledgeable in services for the children, is amazing. Thank you! –Janelle M.

Emily and Francisco S.

These wonderful resource parents have come to the rescue numerous times, taking placements without much notice. They meet the needs of the kiddos in their care in a compassionate and caring manner. They work through challenges with cooperation and grace.

Their flexibility with the children and agency, ability to work with limited amount of time, openness to sibling sets, paying attention to the small detail of asking if children have family nicknames show their commitment to being amazing foster parents. They drove right in with taking a sibling set as their first placement and have not stopped helping out our kiddos. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful family in our fostering community. Thank you Emily and Francisco! – Betty C. and Janelle M.

Mariana and Steven A.

Mariana has been there every step of the way for little baby girl S., an infant who started with many medical and eating issues. She still has many challenges but she has progressed so much with Mariana and Steven’s care, and the team of Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists, as well as early intervention specialists. Mariana takes it all in stride and provides such great loving care. Way to go Mariana, you are an inspiration! – Betty C.

Call for Kudos!

We know that excellent partnership between caregivers, bio parents, community resources and social workers happen every day. Now, the Foster VC Kids team wants to hear about it! We are asking for everyone to submit kudos about any great experience they want to share. Please drop an email to Crystal.Stratton@ventura.org to share the love!!

Places we've been!



Full Life Christian Assembly in Oxnard jumped on Board in March to become a Faith in Motion partner to help spread the word about the needs of foster care within Ventura County. We are collaborating with this wonderful church to work on creating resources for youth, including tutoring and other supports. Welcome, Full Life Christian Assembly!!



Our wonderful panel at our most recent Town Hall!



The School Zone

Dear **FYS**,

We are new foster parents and have a set of school-aged siblings who are spread throughout elementary, middle, and high school. They are all in need of academic and enrichment activities over the summer. What's available?

— Working Mom

Dear Working Mom,

You have many options, and we'd recommend the best place to start would be with your district's Foster Youth Liaison. A list can be found here: <http://www.vcoe.org/Portals/7/Special-Populations/Foster-Youth/List%20of%20Liaisons%20by%20District%202016-17.pdf>. Ask the Liaison what programs are sponsored by the district over the summer as well as any other programs the district is recommending. You may also be able to find that information on the district's website. For example, OUHSD has posted information on summer school for online and school-based courses: <http://www.ouhsd.k12.ca.us/blog/summer-school-2017/>.

There are other programs outside of the districts that may be of interest. For students entering grades 9-12, there are a host of summer camps offered through the Career Education Center, and all are free! High-interest topics such as animation, coding, aviation, child development, criminal justice, game design, film and TV, and many others are now open for registration. You can search and register here: <https://cec.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse>. For students of all ages, many Boys and Girls Clubs offer summer programming in full-day camps that balance academics, sports, art, and other activities. The YMCA offers summer camp and many other programs throughout the summer and offers some scholarships for foster youth. The Ventura YMCA programs can be found here: https://issuu.com/channelislandsymca/docs/vensummertimeguide_web__2_/2?ff=true&e=18623113/45129927.

Remember also that the Children's Auxiliary will reimburse care providers for many enrichment activities, including summer camp! Keeping kids busy and engaged throughout the summer will diminish the academic gap that can develop over the summer without the formal structure of the classroom. For our youth in care, this is especially critical.

— FYSCP

If you have any questions regarding summer activities, be sure to contact us at fys@vcoe.org or (805) 437-1525.

COME VISIT US!

The Foster VC Kids CSC's have been making their way around the Ventura County, spreading the word about the need for loving homes for our Foster kiddos!

Make sure you come say hello at our upcoming events, and pick up a reusable shopping bag! Don't forget to let us know if you know of any events we should be a part of.

June 29 – Andreas Fernandes owner of 805 Bar & Grilled Cheese, Copa Cubana & Comedy Store- Our local celebrity represents Foster VC Kids & Children Services Auxiliary at the Oxnard Salsa Festival, Dancing with the Stars July 29. <http://oxnardsalsafestival.com/>

June 30 – Join us at our upcoming Spanish informational meeting. We will be sharing the needs of foster youth with interested Spanish speaking families at the Consulate of Mexico, 3151 West 5th Street E100, Oxnard. 10am-11:30am Please invite everyone you know that is interested!

July 22 – Foster VC Kids hosts informational meeting at Camarillo Library. 'Camarillo reads' featuring author Regina Calcaterra, author of Etched in Sand, writing about her experience in foster care with her four siblings. www.camarillolibrary.org

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Events

Children's Services Auxiliary Resource Family Picnic

June 30, 11am-2pm

Freedom Park, 480 Skyway Drive, Camarillo

Please join us for arts crafts, games, a jolly jumper, pony rides and much more! BBQ Lunch provided by the Conejo Valley Kiwanis. Please bring a side dish to share. Lunch starts at 11:30, kids and adult drawings start at 1pm. Please call 805-654-3220 or email fostervckids@ventura.org to RSVP by June 22.

Back-to-School Shopping

Saturday, August 4th

James Storehouse is hosting this annual event at Casa Pacifica's Barn for all Ventura County foster youth, ages 10-22. New backpacks, school supplies, shoes, clothing, toiletries, food and fun! Register by emailing jamesstorehouse@gmail.com

Parents Night Out

Fridays, July 13th, September 14th, November 9th

ENCOUNTER Church invites all Caregivers in Ventura County to enjoy a night out while childcare staff care for your children. Cost is \$5 per family, Include games, fun and a pizza dinner! To register, email crice@encounterlife.org. Registration closes Wednesday, 12pm prior to events. ENCOUNTER Church, 6950 Ralston St, Ventura

Defending the Fatherless Story Night

Friday July 20th in Thousand Oaks

Come and be encouraged and invite your friends and family to find out ways to support you on your foster and adoption journey Email defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com for address and details

Sunday Summer Swimming and Potlucks

1-4pm Sundays June 10th, July 29th, and August 19th

Come and Join us for swimming and fun. For address and details RsSVP to Karen Gamboa @ karenmgamboa@gmail.com

Moms Night Outs

Friday June 29th and Friday August 3rd

Take a night away from the kids and be encouraged by other moms on this journey. For more nformation please contact Amanda Bowles amanda.bowles86@gmail.com

Defending the Fatherless Weekday Park Playdates

Various days and parks throughout the summer. Please contact Erica Rodriguez at Erica_rodriguez@verizon.net or Melinda Chou at Melcovlin6363@msn.com

WOSMOH HOOPS 3v3 Basketball Tournament

Saturday, June 9th, Cal Lutheran University, 60 West Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks

Check in time: 8:00am, Game begins at 9:00am. To resiter, volunteer or sponsor, please call: 805-376-0472.

Annual Health and Resource Fair

Saturday June 23rd, 10am-2pm Plaza Park, Oxnard

Free health screenings, Medi-Cal and Cal-Fresh information, Youth, family and senior services, Entertainment, music, dance and face painting. For more information, call 805-437-5606

Raising HOPE, Home Sweet Home

June, The Oaks Mall, Thousand Oaks

In partnership with The Oaks Mall, one of a kind Dollhouses will be displayed in storefronts. Please come see these works of art donated by the community that will be raffled off to benefit children in foster care. For information, contact Mike Wise as mwise@Capstonedirect.com

The Magic of CASA of Ventura County

June 14 The Tower Club, Oxnard

An evening of magic, delicious food & drinks and a silent auction- Contact Pam Knitowski for more i nformation 805-389-3120



What's Happening - Training

Kids & Families Together

Because of their histories, children from hard places have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and belief systems. While a variety of parenting strategies may be successful in typical circumstances, children from hard places need caregiving that meets their unique needs and addresses the whole child. **Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)** is a research grounded intervention that meets the complex needs of children who have suffered harm during early childhood. Each participant/couple that attends will also receive a copy of the book "The Connected Child" by Karyn Purvis and David Cross.

Participants will receive credit for 2.5 hours upon completion of each segment of training. Please RSVP to Rhonda Carlson rcarlson@vccd.edu and specify which classes you intend to take. Sponsors: Ventura College FKCE & Kids & Families Together.

Trust Based Relational Intervention Video Series

864 East Santa Clara St. Ventura (West County)

Facilitator: Pam Lehtonen

June 4th & June 11th 6:00-8:30pm (choose one or both!)

Healthy Touch

Monday, June 4th 6:00-8:30pm

Touch is more powerful than any other form of communication. Touch is essential to human existence. This video will explore the importance of touch, particularly as a tool for promoting healing and developing deeper connection between parents and children. You will learn practical ways to add healthy touch to your daily life. Meets Foster VC Kids criteria for "Trauma".

Trust Based Relational Intervention for your Teenager

Monday, June 11th 6:00-8:30pm

Developing a trusting relationship with any teenager can be challenging. For teens with traumatic backgrounds of abuse, neglect or broken homes, it is especially challenging for both the teen and for the adult caring for them. This video follows youth ages 11-18 who are offered Trust Based Relational Intervention. You will see how this approach brings about remarkable changes. Meets Foster VC Kids criteria for "Trauma" or for "Teen Issues".

Casa Pacifica

All Casa Pacifica trainings are FREE and can be viewed and registered on Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacifica-centers-for-children-and-families-254246353>

Hold Me Tight, Let Me Go

(This workshop is FREE for foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers!) (Ventura)

July 20th & 21st -or- September 14th and 15th.

SPANISH Classes: September 27th –November 15th

Friday (Parents only) 6pm-9pm

Saturday (Parents & Teens) 9am-2pm

Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura

For teens (ages 13-19) with "annoying parents who don't understand. For parents with "moody" teens who won't listen.

In this group, you will:

- Improve communication
- Deepen and enhance trust and emotional safety
- Change frustrating and painful cycles within your family
- Understand your teens' feelings and relationship needs – for both closeness and distance

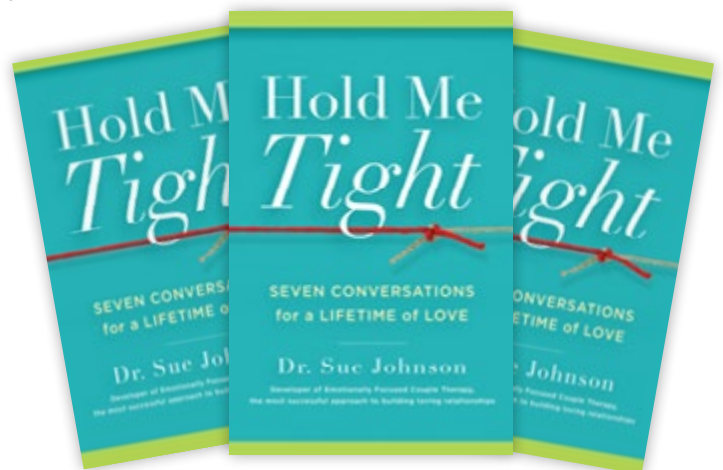
Hold Me Tight Couples Workshop

(8 sessions) (Camarillo)

September 11th – October 30th 6pm-8pm (This workshop is FREE and you'll receive training hours!)

Kids and Families Camarillo Office 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Suite P. Are you ready to strengthen your relationship with your partner and in turn, benefit your children and their future relationships?

The goals of this group are to: 1) identify and change frustrating and painful cycles couples get caught in, 2) improve communication, 3) help couples make sense of their own and their partner's emotions and relationship needs, 4) begin to heal and forgive past relationship hurts, and 5) deepen and enhance trust, emotional safety, and physical intimacy. To register for the next group, please contact Rachel Ashleman, LMFT at 805.643.1446, ext. 106.



What's Happening - Training

The Person Brain Model (Camarillo)

June 7th & 8th or June 28th & 29th, 9am-4pm

A two-day course and hours will go as followed 9am - 4pm (lunch on your own), Sign in begins at 8:30am Casa Pacifica 975 Flynn Road, Camarillo

Shifting from common deficit or strictly behavioral models, this two-day course presents a practice model 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. On completion of this course, successful participants will be able to:

1. Describe the significance of relationship, culture, and ecology in the process of transformation
2. Respond to basic brain and body states that drive behavior
3. Apply strategies to reimburse young people in elements of their lives that have been broken or are missing
4. Integrate short term, momentary management concepts correlated to ACT QUICK process when supporting individuals who are experiencing stress, conflict, or crisis

American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED: Recertification Course

June 7th & 8th or June 28th & 29th, 9am-4pm

Casa Pacifica 975 Flynn Road, Camarillo

Prerequisite: Must bring current American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED certification cards. Class begins at 1:00 pm through 5:00 pm. Late arrivals are not permitted. Please bring a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the instructor to mail your certificate to you. (If you need your card the day of the class, we advise taking the course directly from a local American Red Cross)

Please do not forget to visit our
Events calendar at fostervckids.org
for up-to-date information on
training, networking groups, and
other events. Be sure to "like"
Foster VC Kids on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fostervc



Emergency Physical Intervention (Camarillo)

June 14th, 9am-5pm At Casa Pacifica 975 Flynn Road, Camarillo
A two-day course and hours will go as followed 9am - 5pm (lunch on your own), Sign in begins at 8:30am

This course introduces principles of emergency physical intervention in the context of a relational culture. Participants review the stages of escalation and practice physical skills to minimize and/or evade potential of injury. Participants also practice physical skills for emergencies involving an imminent threat to physical safety when other non-coercive methods are clearly ineffective. Special focus is on the impact of trauma, minimizing risk exposure, and best practices for reducing the duration, intensity, and frequency of physical restraint. On completion of this course, successful participants will be able to:

- Describe principles of emergency physical intervention in the context of a relational culture
- Recognize and respond to stages of escalation and de-escalation
- Demonstrate physical skills to promote safety during emergencies involving an imminent threat to physical safety when other non-coercive methods are clearly ineffective

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) (Ventura) Wednesday, June 20, 2018, or August 29th 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

CASA of Ventura County and the District Attorney's Office need more volunteers! Please attend a joint Information Session to learn about these unique programs, the training, and how you can make a difference in a person's life in our community.

The District Attorney's office will join CASA in presenting an Advocacy opportunity that provides services to thousands of victims every year and seeks qualified volunteers to make an important contribution to public safety and crime victims in Ventura County. Volunteer staff complete an initial 40 hours of training, preparing them to assist victims with services, along with providing crisis intervention and resources and referrals to community agencies.

To reserve your seat, contact Ken at (805) 389-3120 or email at Ken@casaofventuracounty.org.



Ventura County Children & Family Services

Networking & Support Groups

*Resource Parent Networking provides foster parents the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other foster parents in their communities. Please note that meetings are subject to change**

Trauma-Informed Parenting Support Group – Earn Training Hours!

Thursdays 6:00-8:00pm, June 7th – June 21st
Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara Street in Ventura

Educational: Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Caregivers in Ventura County have the opportunity to explore a variety of topics in a safe, supportive environment of their peers. Topics include trauma, Brain and Dysregulation, attachment, therapeutic parenting, dealing with difficult behaviors, working with birth families, playfulness and more. Receive training hours that can be applied toward Resource Parent training requirements. Childcare provided by CISS and must be arranged at least 48 hours in advance. Please call to RSVP if you plan to attend a group. Attendance is not required each week. Call Amy at 805-643-1446 ext. 133 to register for group.

Peer HUB Groups for non-kinship resource families:

Facilitated by FKCE & Channel Islands Social Services to provide you additional training as well as offer opportunities for meeting other caregivers. They offer an East County group, a West County Group and a Spanish language group. Please check our Foster VC Kids Facebook for meetings dates, times, and locations!

Sibling Support Group

Kids & Families Together, 864 E. Santa Clara, Ventura

Siblings of foster, adoptive and kinship youth in Ventura County have the opportunity to explore and share in a safe and supportive environment with peers. This is a 9 week closed group where parents participate every third week. Topics include: family changes, coping skills, mending relationships and managing stress and worries.

Childcare provided during Parent Participation weeks. Parent hours can be applied toward Resource Parent training requirements. Contact Amy at 805-643-1446, ext. 133 to register for a group.

PPE HUBs East County:

ALL Required Training Topics
Lighthouse Church in Newbury Park

Free Meals and childcare available along with CSA on site to hand out toys for Foster Families to refurbish/add toys needed at home. Contact PPE to RSVP: Liz Thiele (805)861-3196 or Leeann Mesa (805)905-9267

PPE HUB's West County:

English and Spanish– Ventura CFS Office

Free Meals and childcare available along with CSA on site to hand out toys for Foster Families to refurbish/add toys needed at home. Contact PPE to RSVP: Sonia Correa (805)907-1028 or Natalie Torres (805)905-1982

Camarillo: Defending the Fatherless is a Christian faith based caregiver support network/group. All are welcome. Email defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com or go to www.defendingthefatherless.net for more info.

Educational: Kids and Families Together hosts a support group on a range of topics provided in a safe and supportive environment, while strengthening their therapeutic parenting skills. Groups meet periodically. Contact Karina at 805-643-1446, ext. 118 for the latest information.

Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA):

The VCFPA offers support, training and resources to Ventura County foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers. They hold monthly membership meetings bi-monthly. For information on the association and meetings dates/times/locations, visit <http://www.vcfpa.com/>. For Relative Care Givers



For Relative Caregivers...



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- Walk-ins welcome! Training hour certificates provided upon request. For further information, call Kids & Families Together 805-643-1446

Sponsors: **Ventura College FKCE, Oxnard College FKCE and Kids & Families Together**

Ventura: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm
Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara St, Ventura

Santa Paula: (Bilingual Spanish & English)
2nd Tuesday of the month 6:00-8:00pm | Neighborhood
for Learning 115 Dean Dr Ste. B in Santa Paula

Oxnard: 1st (Bilingual) & 3rd (Spanish) Wednesday of the month 6:00-8:00pm | Sierra Linda Elementary School, 2201 Jasmine Ave, Oxnard

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

Businesses with HEART

Ventura County Children & Family Services



Many local businesses help support our foster community. Businesses with Heart provide discounts on their products or services. Businesses can also give back by connecting with one of many non-profit partners, which directly support our foster community.

We would like to welcome our newest partners! **Channel Islands Boating Center, KPAC Dance, Beattie Automotive, Legal Shield, Simi Valley Library, Paul Revere Auto, Latino Business Chamber, Dottie's Sweet Delights, and the Camarillo Library!** Please check our website for all details on services and discounts at: <http://fostervckids.org/bwh/>.

A Special Thank You to: Forever My Dahhhlin Floral for providing flowers to our Resource Parents Appreciation Board of Supervisors event. <https://forevermydahhhlin.com/>, as well as Reel Guppies for taking 22 foster families whale watching!

You should have received your Businesses with Heart card and discount guide in the mail by now! You can now use this card to access a range of discounts in Ventura County! Visit www.fostervckids.org for a complete list of our Business with Heart Partners. If you know of a business that would like to become a Businesses with Heart Partner or want to share a story of how this support has benefited you and the children you are caring for! Please email Jaci Johnson at jaci.johnson@ventura.org.

fostervckids.org/bwh

Resource Center

Three out of four car seats are used incorrectly, learn how to do it right! In light of recent changes in car seat laws, UC Davis Trauma Prevention and Outreach program has provided a link with more information and some short videos on proper installation. Please take a moment to refresh your knowledge so we can keep children in our care SAFE! http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/injuryprevention/childhoodsafety/child_passenger_safety.html

Recently, the Family Collaboration & Support Division was in dire need of infant and child car and booster seats. We reached out to our wonderful partners and the feedback was amazing! Partners all over hosted drives and collected donations to help keep our kiddo's safe! To date we have received seats from CASA of Ventura County, James Storehouse and Cornerstone Church. Thank you so much for ALL you do to help our children!



Stacy and her daughter at James Storehouse standing next to the donation of child and infant seats they provided for emergency and safety needs. Thank you Stacy for the many ways you contribute to our children!



A former Resource fostering parent, current Faith in Motion Chaplain Program lead, and Foster VC Kids Ambassador, Don Anderson wears many hats. Here he is delivering car seats from Cornerstone Church's donation drive. Thanks Don for your wonderful commitment to our children!

To see the full list of resource providers, see our full **FOSTER VC Kids RESOURCE TOOLKIT** at www.fostervckids.org/resources.



Foster VC Kids is here to help. We have many resources available for you and your children's needs, other than the above highlighted. If you have specific material or resource needs, contact your social worker or Foster VC Kids for support at fostervckids@ventura.org or call us at **805-654-3220**. We can help you to access the resources you and your child need to thrive.



Foster Care Snapshot:

The Critical Need Continues...

In the Month of April:

There were **744** children in care

202 children were in foster home placements (County & FFA)

359 children were in kinship/relative care placements

92 children were in guardian homes

3 finalized adoptions (**35** Calendar year-to-date)

38 children remained in group homes/shelter care

30.5% of siblings are separated from each other

19.6% are placed with some, but not all siblings

We welcomed **26** new foster homes into the Foster VC Kids 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

Aspiranet

www.aspiranet.org

Bethany Christian Services

www.bethany.org

California Youth Connection

www.calyouthconn.org

Casa Pacifica

www.casapacifica.org

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

www.casaofventuracounty.org

CFS Independent Living Program

www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth

Channel Islands Social Services

www.islandsocialservices.org

Child Development Resources

www.childdevelopmentresources.org

Child Hope Services

www.childhopeservices.org

Children's Services Auxiliary

www.csavc.org

Dark to Dawn

www.darktodawn.org

Foster VC Kids

www.fostervckids.org

HulaFrog

www.hulafrog.com/Ventura-Ca

iFoster

www.ifoster.org

Interface Children & Family Services

<http://icfs.org>

James Storehouse

www.jamesstorehouse.org

Kids & Families Together

www.kidsandfamilies.org

Koinonia Family Services

www.kfh.org

Macaroni Kid

www.camarillo.macaronikid.com

National Foster Parent Association

<http://nfpaonline.org>

Neighborhoods for Learning

www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning

QPI California

www.qpicalifornia.com

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com

Raising HOPE/HOPE4Kids

www.raisinghope.org

Shelter Care Resources

www.sheltercareresources.com

TEACh Fund Scholarship

www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml

VC Foster Parent Association

www.vcfpa.com

Ventura County Office of Education Foster Youth Services

www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx

Women of Substance, Men of Honor

www.wosmoh.org

Conejo Valley Guide

www.conejovalleyguide.com/events-calendar

Foster Parent Training Websites

California Just in Time Training

www.qpicalifornia.org/justintime.shtml

Cenpatico U

www.cenpaticoU.com

Foster Care & Adoptive Community

www.fosterparents.com

Foster Club

www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training

Foster Parent College

www.fosterparentcollege.com