

Central Connections



2000 Vol. 5

For Heart of Illinois Foster Parents

Support Groups Help Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Grandparents raising their grandchildren is an occurrence that is becoming more common and more challenging. The circumstances that render it necessary for grandparents to fill the gap are often unplanned and unpleasant. For the families of grandparents raising their grandchildren, there are resources to address the unique dynamics of this special situation. The Illinois Department on Aging has formed 66 support groups in Cook County and across the state, and more are coming this year.



Support groups:

- Offer emotional support to grandparents who may feel alone and isolated.
- Create a network of grandparents who are also raising their grandchildren.
- Offer guidance assistance and advice to grandparents.
- Give grandparents ideas and new ways of handling challenging circumstances.
- Offer information and resources.
- Provide advocacy tools to raise awareness about issues facing grandparents raising their grandchildren.
- Offer a safe place for grandparents to discuss the stresses and successes that go along with raising their grandchildren.

Resources:

Illinois Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

c/o Illinois Department on Aging
412 E. Capitol #100
Springfield, IL 62701-1789
Senior HelpLine
800/252-8966

AARP Grandparent Information Center

601 E. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20049
202/434-2296

Grandparents can experience a range of emotions from anger to guilt. They face issues such as educational obstacles, negative interactions with their adult children or the behavioral problems of their grandchildren. The support groups let people know that they are not alone and that there are others working through the same things successfully.

“Most grandparents never asked for this. But they do this out of a tremendous love for their grandchildren,” said Barbara Schwartz, coordinator of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program for the Illinois Department on Aging.

Despite the differing circumstances that bring their grandchildren to them, Schwartz notices a common thread among grandparents. They are all parenting again with the hope that it is only a temporary situation and that their adult child will be able to take back the reins. Meanwhile, support groups can help everyone in the family work through a tough time.

For a copy of the booklet “Starting Points for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” or for a listing of support groups in your area call the Illinois Department on Aging Senior HelpLine 800/252-8966.

Placement Questions

Basic information to ask when you get the call about a new placement. Keep this list by your phone. You may not get all of the answers, but this list can help you make a decision to bring a child into your family.



1. Name, Age, Sex and Race of child.
2. Why has the child been placed?
3. Does the child have medical problems?
4. Does the child display behavioral problems?
5. Will this be a short or long term placement?
6. When will the child visit their parent/siblings?
7. Will you call me in a couple of days to see how things are going?
8. Is there a history of drug involvement by any member of the family?
9. Tell me about the child's emotional/mental status.
10. What school does the child attend?
11. What grade is the child in?
12. Does the child have any learning disabilities?
13. How does the child relate to peers?
14. Does the child have siblings? Where are they placed? Can they have contact?
15. Is there a history of family violence?
16. Is there any relative involvement?
17. Does the child have a history of running away?
18. Does the child have an arrest history?
19. Tell me about upcoming court dates regarding the child/family.
20. Who is the legal guardian?
21. Does the child have any communicable diseases?



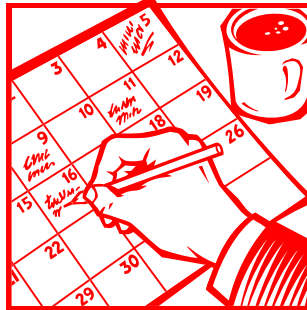
Not all of your questions may be answered due to the lack of information the worker has at the time of placement or due to confidentiality, but asking never hurts and information always helps you understand how best to help the child.

Foster Parent Council Meetings

Central Region Foster Parent Council meetings for 2000-2001:

- February 14, 2001 Peoria Regional Office
5215 N. University
- March 14, 2001 Galesburg Field Office
467 E. Main St.
- April 11, 2001 Peoria Regional Office
5215 N. University
- May 9, 2001 Jacksonville
46 N. Central Park Plaza
- June 13, 2001 Peoria Regional Office
5215 N. University

All meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please contact Pat Koehler (309) 693-5400 to confirm attendance so that lunch can be ordered. There will be no meetings in December or January.



The Central Region Foster Parent Council is also in need of foster parents willing to be on the council. The areas in which foster parents are needed are:

Peoria Sub-Region

1 - private agency foster parent

Springfield Sub-region

1 - DCFS foster parent
2 - private agency foster parents

Champaign Sub-region

3 - private agency foster parents

If you are interested, please call Pat Koehler at (309) 693-5400.



New Board Rates Effective July 1, 2000

Child's Age	Board	Clothing	Allowance	Total
0 - 11 months	\$315.70	\$34.85	\$10.25	\$360.80
1 to 4 years	\$317.75	\$39.98	\$11.28	\$369.01
5 to 8 years	\$319.80	\$52.28	\$12.30	\$384.38
9 to 11 years	\$325.95	\$61.50	\$22.55	\$410.00
12 and over	\$334.15	\$69.70	\$41.00	\$444.85

Central Region Training Calendar

Educational Advocacy Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be licensed or re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

Peoria Area 888-507-7433

CANTON	<i>Site to Be Announced</i>
Dec. 5 & 12 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
GALESBURG	<i>Site to Be Announced</i>
Nov. 30 & Dec. 7 (Thurs)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
LASALLE/OTTAWA	<i>Site to Be Announced</i>
Nov. 18 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
MACOMB	<i>Site to Be Announced</i>
Dec. 5 & 12 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
PEORIA	<i>Sites to Be Announced</i>
Nov. 20 & 27 (Mon)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
Dec. 14 & 21 (Thurs)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
	Catholic Social Services
Nov. 28 & Dec. 5 (Tues)	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Nov. 30 & Dec. 7 (Thurs)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
QUAD CITIES	<i>Blackhawk College</i>
Nov. 18 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Dec. 14 & 21 (Thurs)	6:00-9:00 p.m.

Champaign Area 888-467-6065

BLOOMINGTON	<i>The Children's Foundation</i>
Dec. 9 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
CHAMPAIGN	<i>Workforce Prep Center</i>
Dec. 16 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
DANVILLE	<i>Days Inn</i>
Dec. 16 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
DECATUR	<i>DCFS Office</i>
Dec. 4 & 11 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
MATTOON	<i>Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Ctr.</i>
Dec. 16 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Springfield Area 888-817-1825

BEARDSTOWN	<i>Site to Be Announced</i>
Nov. 30 & Dec. 7 (Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
QUINCY	<i>Site to Be Announced</i>
Nov. 27 & 29 (Mon/Wed)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
SPRINGFIELD	<i>Site to Be Announced</i>
Dec. 1 & 8 (TFri)	6:30-9:30 p.m.

FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Training offerings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

Module 1 - *The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children*
(Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

Module 2 - *Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture*
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 3 - *Addressing Developmental Issues Related to Sexuality* (One 3-hour session = 3 training hours)

Module 4 - *Responding to the Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 5 - *Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 6 - *Working as a Professional Team Member*
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 7 - *Promoting Children's Personal and Cultural Identity* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 8 - *Promoting Permanency Outcomes*
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 9 - *Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

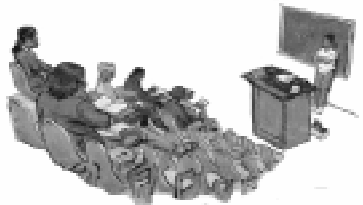
Module 10 - *Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families*
(Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

Peoria Area 888-507-7433

	Module
CANTON - <i>Site to be Announced</i>	
Nov. 27 (Mon)	6:00-9:00 p.m. 3
Dec. 4 & 11 (Mon)	6:00-9:00 p.m. 4
QUAD CITIES - <i>Blackhawk College</i>	
Dec. 5, 12 & 19 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m. 8

Springfield Area 888-817-1825

	Module
JACKSONVILLE - <i>Site to be Announced</i>	
Dec. 7 & 14 (Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 7
QUINCY - <i>Site to be Announced</i>	
Dec. 4 & 11 (Mon)	1:00-4:00 p.m. 7
SPRINGFIELD - <i>Site to be Announced</i>	
Dec. 1, 8 & 15 (Fri)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 6
Dec. 2 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 9
TAYLORVILLE - <i>Site to be Announced</i>	
Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 2



Champaign Area 888-467-6065

	Module
DECATUR - <i>Webster-Cantrell Hall</i>	
Nov. 28 & Dec. 5 & 12 (Tues)	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 8
ROCKFORD - <i>Workforce Prep Center</i>	
Nov. 14 & 21 (Tues)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 9

**Pre-registration
is required
for all classes!**

**Call the number
listed for your
area.**

Central Connections

Sponsor

Deborah Kennedy, DCFS
Central Regional Administrator

Editor

Joyce Loy, Foster Parent
801 S. High St.
Port Byron, IL 61275
309-523-3189 Fax: 309-523-3360
E-mail: jloy1@gateway.net

Call with foster parent association news and schedules of local training, features on foster families and community members working for children, photos and news articles and supports all foster families can use.