



(Lives Under Construction Kids & You) May 2008

**Department of Children's Services
2555 Plymouth Road
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423) 854-5311**



April Adoptions

Sean & Michelle = adoption of a young boy & a young girl
Eddie & Patsy = adoption of a young boy & a teenage boy
Roger & Holly = adoption of a young girl
James and Penny = adoption of a teenage girl
Josh & Earin = adoption of a young boy & a teenage girl
Patrick & Robin = adoption of a baby girl (March adoption)

May Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner

Due to ongoing budget issues here at DCS, we are not able to have the annual Regional Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner as planned for the end of May. Hopefully this will be a one time occurrence and we will be able to host the event again next year. We apologize and sincerely appreciate all of the hard work you do! Foster parent associations may be planning something for foster parent appreciation. More details to come.

It's a Girl!

Vanessa Addington, Resource Parent Support Case Manager in Sullivan County had a baby girl named Katelin Alexandria on April 23, 2008. She weighed 7 lbs. and 10 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. Both mom and baby are doing fine. Congratulations Vanessa!!!





**After Hours / On-call
#877-54-ABUSE**



**All Families Matter Hotline
1-866-327-9101**

(You should receive a response to your call within 24 to 48 hours.)
Remember, please follow the chain of command and try to resolve any issues or concerns in region first.

Have you tried:
The child's Family Service Worker?
Your RPSCM?
The FSW's Supervisor?
The FSW's Team Coordinator?
Lucretia Sanders, Deputy Regional Administrator?
Sherri Hale, Regional Administrator?

Northeast Region Foster Parent Advocate
Jill Thompson
423-290-8110 or jthompson@tnadvocate.org

Board Payment Call-In Dates

1-800-470-7444

May 6th & 7th for the dates of April 16th to 30th

May 21st & 22nd for the dates of May 1st to 15th

www.state.tn.us/youth/fostercare/fpcalendars.htm

Required Foster Parent Training

The time that we have been telling you all about is now here! You **must attend** the **Medication Administration** class and a **CPR/First Aid** class immediately! If you did not take this training class in 2007, you must attend one of these classes! This is not an option, it is a requirement! CPR/First Aid will also have to be taken every two years, so that foster parents will be certified at all times. Resource parents are also required to complete the following core classes within their first year of fostering:

Positive Discipline
Parenting the Sexually Abused Child
Cultural Awareness
Working with Birth Parents
Fostering Positive Behavior

These trainings apply to **ALL foster homes**, both **regular and kinship** foster homes. Also, it applies to foster homes that plan to adopt within the next few months. We have called, sent letters, emails, and the monthly newsletters advising of these requirements and that there would be consequences. Soon, we will be required to have a Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM) to discuss the possibility of moving any children placed in your home, because you have not received the required trainings. Your home could become unapproved if you do not complete the required trainings. There are no waivers or exceptions in policy for not having these trainings. If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact your Resource Parent Support Case Manager. You will need to register for these classes. Registration information is listed below and the training schedule is on the next page. Please register for those you've not had **IMMEDIATELY!** Thanks!!!

Please email or leave a message for the Consortium Trainer to register for the below classes.

#439-7462 or rpt@etsu.edu

****Please include the following in your email or message...**

- * Name (both names if a couple)
- * Address
- * Phone number (home &/or cell)
- * Name of Class
- * Date of Class
- * Email address (if applicable)

Medication Administration

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| 5/3/08 | Saturday = Medication Administration
Greene County Library 210 North Main St | 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Greeneville, TN |
| 5/7/08 | Wednesday = Medication Administration
DCS Office 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd | 12:00pm to 4:00pm
Blountville, TN |
| 5/8/08 | Thursday = Medication Administration
ETSU Sam Wilson Hall, Room#228 (ETSU Campus) | 6:00pm to 10:00pm
Johnson City, TN |
| 6/5/08 | Thursday = Medication Administration
DCS Office 2555 Plymouth Rd | 6:00pm to 10:00pm
Johnson City, TN |
| 6/19/08 | Thursday = Medication Administration
DCS Office 4017 Hwy 66 South, Ste 1 | 12:00pm to 4:00pm
Rogersville, TN |
| 6/21/08 | Saturday = Medication Administration
Crossroads United Methodist Church
200 Bays Cove Trail (off Netherland Inn Rd) | 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Kingsport, TN |

Core Classes

- | | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| 5/12/08 | Monday = Fostering Positive Behavior
DCS Office 206 Cherokee Park Drive, Ste 2 | 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Elizabethton, TN |
| 5/22/08 | Thursday = Working With Birth Parents
DCS Office 4017 Hwy#66 South, Ste 1 | 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Rogersville, TN |
| 6/10/08 | Tuesday = Parenting the Sexually Abused Child
DCS Office 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd | 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Blountville, TN |
| 6/21/08 | Saturday = Cultural Awareness
DCS Office 130 Serral Drive | 9:00am to 12:00pm
Greeneville, TN |

COA – Council on Accreditation

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services has embarked on a journey to enhance and improve the quality of services we provide. We hope to accomplish this by achieving accreditation through the Council on Accreditation or in DCS's favorite language of acronyms – COA. Achieving accreditation is a long and difficult task, but will ultimately help us meet our mission of empowering families and supporting community safety and partnerships to help ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children. We need your help to become accredited! If you have any questions after reading this, please contact your Resource Parent Support Case Manager.

You may be wondering – how does COA affect foster parents?

All resource parents are required to attend CPR/First Aid training. This is a COA standard that must be met to become accredited. Resource parents will not be allowed to have children placed in their home until having taken this training.

Resource parents are required to attend Medication Administration training. This training is offered in different locations monthly. If you have not attended this training, it is imperative you do so as soon as possible. Placement of children will not be allowed in homes of resource parents who have not had this training.

Resource parents are considered to be partners with DCS in achieving permanency for the children and families we serve. Therefore, resource parents are to be included in permanency planning.

All resource homes must be fully approved before children can be placed in the home. The exception to this is kinship placements. An expedited study can be completed so the child can be placed in the home immediately, but board payments cannot begin until the home is fully approved. Kinship placements must meet all the requirements as regular foster homes. This includes attending PATH classes, the completion of an approved home study, and the completion of the required foster parent classes.

Placement of children must be made with these priorities: placed with siblings and placed with relatives or someone with a significant relationship with the child and placement in the child's home community. Trauma to children is significantly reduced if they can remain in a familiar setting.

No more than 6 total children can be living in a foster home. This includes birth or adopted children. No more than 3 foster children can be placed in a home without a placement exception request being approved. No more than 3 children under the age of 3 can be placed in a foster home without a placement exception request being approved.

Placement moves must be minimized, so the child can experience stability in their lives. This is why it is very important that you communicate any behavior problems the child is having with their FSW as soon as possible. This will allow them to respond proactively to provide services in your home to help with these issues and avoid a placement disruption.

Resource parents are encouraged to maintain contact with the child's birth parents as much as possible to support the goal of reunification. Your good parenting skills can be an example to them.

Resource parents play a vital role in the recruitment of new resource parents. You are the only ones who can tell them about the whole experience. We are continually looking at ways to show our appreciation to current resource parents, because of the great amount of time and dedication you give to the children.

Supervisory Review of Resource Homes

There will be a supervisory review of all resource homes during the next three months, so expect a call and possibly a visit. Review teams will be made up of Team Leaders and above. The reviews are to ensure safety of children in resource homes.

Resource homes must meet acceptable standards. General areas of assessment include: residence being free of hazards; adequate water supply (well water must be tested); toilet facilities; a working landline telephone; sewage disposal; adequate bedrooms and storage per child; children must each have their own bed; no more than two children to a bedroom unless an exception is granted; children age three or older must not share the bedroom of resource parents except for brief periods of illness; children of the opposite sex shall not be allowed to share rooms unless siblings and under the age of four; pets must be vaccinated; exterior of home must be free from hazards; medications and other potentially hazardous substances (cleaning supplies) will be stored in a locked cupboard inaccessible to children; firearms, bows, arrows, hunting knives, and any weapon of any variety must be secured and locked in a secure gun cabinet or other storage facility; gun cabinets with glass enclosures or glass doors are not appropriate, unless specifically designed for the purpose of weapon display; keys to gun cabinets must be secured in a separate location; trigger locks must be utilized on all firearms; ammunition must be stored and locked separately; swimming pools must be secured in accordance with city/county safety ordinances; resource homes must have smoke detectors on every level of the home and near the child's bedroom; and fire

extinguishers on each floor of the residence. If you have any questions please contact your Resource Parent Support Case Manager.

Please visit www.state.tn.us/youth/dcsguide/policies for any DCS policy.

Interested in becoming a Path Trainer? The next T4T is scheduled for May 20th - 23rd at Crossroads Christian Church in Gray. You must have at least 1 year of experience as a resource parent. If interested contact Michelle Hathaway for more info. at 423-791-0453 or hathawam@etsu.edu

Phone Numbers & Locations

Main#423-547-5814
Judy Hatley, Placement Specialist - Carter, Unicoi & Johnson County
#423-547-3984
Judy.Hatley@state.tn.us

Sullivan County - Kingsport Office
Main#423-857-1220
Vanessa Addington, RPSCM - Sullivan County
#423-857-1228 Vanessa.Addington@state.tn.us
Ginie Cole, Placement Specialist - Sullivan County
#423-857-1224 Virginia.Cole@state.tn.us
Marsha Musick, Permanency Specialist
#423-857-1229 Marsha.L.Musick@state.tn.us

Sullivan County - Blountville
Main#423-279-1460
Christina Butler, RPSCM
#423-279-1477
Christina.Butler@state.tn.us

Karen Keck
Permanency Specialist
#423-279-1476
Karen.Keck@state.tn.us

Carrie Schatz
Placement Specialist
#423-279-1481
Carrie.Schatz@state.tn.us

Office Annex
Main#423-854-5220

Lora Anderson,
Adoption Team Leader
#979-5231
Lora.Anderson@state.tn.us

Greene County Office
Main#423-787-2550
Sara Britt, Placement Specialist
#423-787-2570
Sara.Britt@state.tn.us
Lisa Larimer, Permanency

Hawkins County Office (Hawkins & Hancock Counties)

Johnson City - Washington County Office

Main#423-854-5311

Tammy Arrowood, Permanency Specialist
#423-854-5057 Tammy.Arrowood@state.tn.us

Patty Buckner, RPSCM - Greene & Hawkins
#423-854-5022 Patty.Buckner@state.tn.us

Christi Gerlach, RPSCM - Washington & Unicoi
#423-854-5058 Christi.Gerlach@state.tn.us

Chris Johnson, Team Coordinator
#423-854-5125

Kristin McKee-Ayers, RPSCM - Washington & Unicoi
#423-854-5023 Kristen.McKee-Ayers@state.tn.us

Jennifer New, Placement Specialist
#423-854-5056 Jennifer.New@state.tn.us

Scott Overbey, Placement Services Division Team Leader
#423-854-5054 Scott.Overbey@state.tn.us

Erin Beese, Resource Parent Support Team Leader
#423-854-5029 Erin.Parker@state.tn.us

VACANT, Recruiter
#423-854-5024

Sheila Woods, RPSCM - Carter & Johnson
#423-854-5021 Sheila.Woods@state.tn.us

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May is National Foster Care Month

Foster Care Month originated in 1988 when the National Foster Parent Association persuaded then Senator Strom Thurmond to introduce a resolution to proclaim May as National Foster Care Month. The first President Bush issued an annual proclamation during each year of his

presidency, providing an impetus for state, county, and city proclamations. The main focus of the early efforts was appreciation and recognition of the tremendous contributions of foster parents nationwide. Join us in making this a time to recognize and celebrate those who make a difference in the lives of children in the foster care system. For more information on how to get involved in National Foster Care Month activities, visit www.fostercaremonth.org