



KFAPA News

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November 2008

How Trainings Are Scheduled

by Denise Gibson of Children's Alliance

Most of you receive the Children's Alliance training calendar through email or newsletters. Many of you have even come to depend upon this calendar as a way to find trainings for CEUs. So, did you ever wonder how the scheduling process works? Here is the answer. Children's Alliance has 22 Child Welfare agencies that pay dues to the organization. One of the benefits of being a member is that they can access funding to host trainings for foster/adoptive parents. This funding is through a contract that Children's Alliance has with SRS. The member agencies have access to a database on a secured server housed at the Children's Alliance office. The agencies identify training topics, trainers and locations to host the classes.

Every two months, agencies submit training proposals via the database. The training has to be appropriate for resource (foster and adoptive) parents, residential childcare workers, kinship providers, informal care givers, supervisors or other professionals who work with children in out of home placement. The priority is for resource parents and direct care staff. The objectives must directly relate to one or more of the Children's Alliance Eight Core Values for Children (these can be found at www.childally.org). The training must be

general, "best practice" training and not specific orientation for a particular agency.

The agencies must agree to open half of the slots to people not associated with their agency. A subcommittee (made up of two contractor representatives and two sub contractor representatives) reviews the proposals and meets to make sure the trainings submitted meet several criteria: target audience, core values of the alliance, location and frequency of the topics.



Since there is a limited amount of funding every month, the committee must many times make the tough decision to not approve some classes for funding. They look for

duplication of content, cost per training and the target audience. They also look at classes that have been well attended as well as those that have been cancelled in the past due to low attendance. They prioritize the classes that are scheduled on evenings and weekends to meet the needs of the resource parents. They also will place a high priority on classes that are required for licensure such as first aid, Medication Administration and Universal Precautions.

Once the approval committee has met and decided on which classes are approved,

Foster Care Helpline/ Free Legal Service for Foster Children & Foster Families:

Foster Care Helpline provides free legal service, representation and social services information to children in foster care and the people who care for them. The Helpline can help with:

- disability
- special education
- mental & medical health referrals
- education decisions
- emancipation and independent living
- adoption issues and more!

The toll free helpline is 877-298-2674, or in the Topeka area: 785-234-8345. The helpline is available from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All calls are confidential. For more information, please visit www.kansaslegalservices.org.

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Meet the Board

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KFAPA is a 501 c 3 approved organization.

Helpline Continued

the calendar is then generated. It is sent out electronically to several hundred people. It can also be downloaded from the Children's Alliance website. Anyone who wishes to receive an electronic copy can email Denise Gibson at dgibson@childdally.org and ask her to put you on her calendar email list. If you don't have computer access, contact Trudy at 785-235-5437 x 1. She would be happy to mail you a copy.

Quarterly KFAPA board meetings are held on the first month of each quarter on the third Saturday:

January 17, 2009 Region 5
Sedgwick County

April 18, 2009 Region 1
Southeast Kansas

Meeting notices will be posted on our website, www.kfapa.com and on the Children's Alliance Recruitment Calendar at www.childdally.org.

~ NOVEMBER ~

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month. This year's theme is *Answering The Call*. This month is set aside to raise awareness about the adoption of children and youth from foster care. Adoption is a life long, life-changing journey for all members of the adoption triad - birth parents, adoptees and adoptive parents.

National Adoption Day is November 15, 2008. It is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the 129,000 children in foster care awaiting a permanent family. Numerous events are planned nationwide to celebrate National Adoption Month. To see what is happening in your area, go to www.nationaladoptionday.org, click on events, and then go to Kansas.



Nominations Being Accepted

The Board of Directors announces the following positions up for election in the spring of 2009: Vice President, Secretary, Region 2 and 4 Vice President. Anyone wishing to make a nomination may do so by contacting KFAPA secretary, Janice Snyder, at snyder02@myway.com. Nominees must be members in good standing of KFAPA and the National Foster Parent Association and agree to serve for a two year period beginning July 1, 2009. Copies of bylaws with general position descriptions are available from our website, www.kfapa.org. Nominations must be received prior to March 15, 2009.

Blue Ribbon Event Fun For All

Approximately 50 adults and children attended the October 18, 2008 Blue Ribbon Tree Event and the afternoon and evening of events. Affixing approximately 1,500 ribbons onto two trees was no challenge to the good natured group who developed several techniques for getting the ribbons onto the trees. The stick rodeo for the children was quite a sight to see as the kids galloped a stick horse up and tied a ribbon on the tail of the goat, roped a large orange plastic alligator, bobbed for apples, and swung at the piñata.

After an afternoon of free snow cones and candy from the piñata, the kids still managed to eat quite a few hot dogs and treats at the picnic. The hayrack ride was quite an adventure too, with some spooks popping out from the trees along the field and scaring the riders. All in all, it was a great day of old fashioned family fun. KFAPA would like to thank those who attended and participated, as well as the sponsors of the event, for making the day so memorable.

The Blue Ribbon Tree showed the number of children in foster care in Region 4.



Left: The Red Ribbon Tree depicted the number of foster families in Region 4. Right: A participant of "Tie the Ribbon on the Goat's Tail" throws up her hands in true cowgirl fashion to stop the timer and win a prize.



Glowing pumpkins cast their unique faces about the chicken house as darkness falls. It was great day!



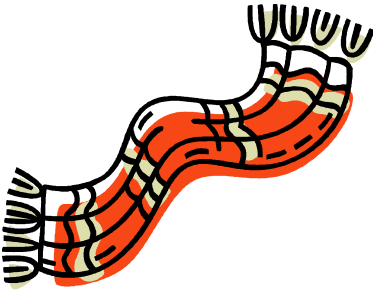
Above: Dennis Finch, Paul Hiller, Carol Finch and Richard Basham take a few moments to relax while roasting the hotdogs for the evening meal. Right: KFAPA Member Bill Weigant clutches the red ribbon securely as he gallops his stick horse toward the goat. Far Right: Rope that crocodile, cowgirl!



Surviving Winter Colds

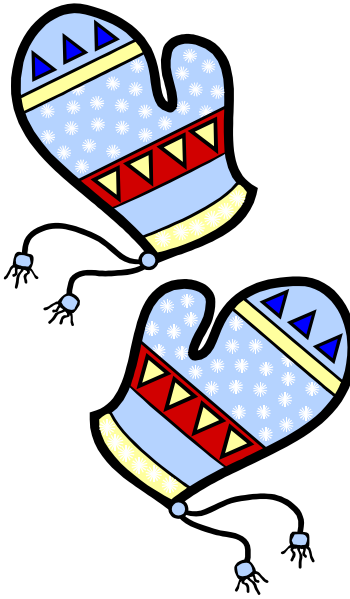
It's that time of year again when our children come home with colds and/or the flu. Remember the common practices that can keep us all healthier:

1. Encourage good hand washing habits, including after shopping trips and community outings.
2. Teach children to keep their hands away from their mouth, nose and eyes, as hand-to-mouth contact is the most common way that viruses and bacteria get into our bodies to make us sick.
3. Eat healthy diet, get adequate sleep, and have regular exercise.
4. Flu vaccinations are still recommended for infants and children up to 18 years of age, and remember that vaccinations will not prevent common colds, stomach viruses or strep throat.



5. Shaking hands transmits germs, so consider bumping elbows instead.

6. Coughing into your shoulder instead of your hand keeps germs off your hands.



Links to Check Out

www.nationaladoptionday.org

National Adoption Day

www.nfpainc.org

National Foster Parent Association website

www.KFAPA.com

Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association website

www.kfapatalk.blogspot.com

Our newly developed blog site provides educational and informative postings. Take a look!



When Foster Homes Move

When licensed foster families move, that license is closed. A new license must be applied for at the new address. Foster parents are not authorized to care for children in the new residence until the temporary or new license is issued. If a foster family is buying a home, they need to be sure that their sponsoring child placement agency is informed. The sponsoring agency will work with KDHE and the family to get the temporary license or new license issued. KDHE can do a preliminary walk through inspection of the new address prior to the move to be sure the property meets basic licensing standards. Then when the family moves in, the final inspection can occur. It is illegal to move a placement child without a new license. The sponsoring agency can work with the foster family to provide respite for the child until the temporary license is granted. Providing as much information as possible to the sponsoring agency as soon as possible will speed up the process. If you are a foster family that is considering buying a home, ask the realtor and or the current homeowners for permission to do that preliminary walk through inspection prior to closing.

KFAPA

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