

Reminders & Resources

FEC Highlighter

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Family Enrichment Center
 1002 E. Dr. Martin Luther King
 Tampa, FL 33603
 813.237.2530
 813.231.7196 FAX

Foster Care Team

- Ext. 13 Michelle Costley
- Ext. 14 Information Line
- Ext. 15 Jonathan Hudson
- Ext. 16 Anilcia Garcia
- Ext. 26 Judy Rowland-Smith

Kinship Care Team

- Ext 10 Robert Davis
- Ext 19 Ana Sanabria
- Ext 20 Chauncey Ellis



What's New -- F.E.C. In the Community

Support FEC Day at Chipotle!!!



**Present the FEC Fundraising Flyer
 On MARCH 16, 2017
 5:00 am to 9:00 pm**

**At the University Area Location ONLY:
 2576 E. Fowler Avenue
 Tampa, FL 33612**

**FEC will receive 50% of the proceeds to support its programs and services
 for children and families.**

Book Nook...



"Kids are important... They need safe places to live, and safe places to play." For some kids, this means living with foster parents. In simple words and full-color illustrations, this book explains why some kids move to foster homes, what foster parents do, and ways kids might feel during foster care. Children often believe that they are in foster care because they are "bad." This book makes it clear that the troubles in their lives are not their fault; the message throughout is one of hope and support. Includes resources and information for parents, foster parents, social workers, counselors, and teachers.

Available on Google Play Books - \$7.99



ON-LINE TRAINING

Below are a few websites where you can access available foster care-giving trainings from reading articles to interactive videos to obtain your hours for re-licensure. Remember, 12 training hours are needed per year, with 1-2 training hours completed each month!

Online Training Resources offer training hours from the comfort of your home with flexible hours.....train around your schedule. No need for baby sitters.

Website Resources.

www.centerforchildwelfare.com

<http://www.childwelfare.gov>

How YOU Can Help!!

- Contact FEC to tape a testimonial to become eligible to be featured on the agency's website. Call Judy Rowland-Smith at x26.
- Go to our updated website at www.lectampa.org and make a donation to be used to support FEC's programs & services.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Join us in welcoming our newly licensed foster families:

- Esther Etienne
- Brandon & Kai Boykin
- Iris Collins
- Ineabelle Rondon
- Justin Rodriguez
- Jillian & Joshua Haley
- Elaine Terenzi & Henry Kuivila
- Lashona & Aaron Frazier

FEC Partners/Funders



Important Dates...

UPCOMING TRAINING:

FEC In-Service Training Tuesday: TOPIC: "Working with Older Youth"

Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 at 6:00 pm

"Training Tuesday" Sessions are held at the W.E. Davis Family Support Center – 5407 N. 30th St. Tampa
Child care is available on a limited basis due to safety concerns. Please RSVP to your FDS.

HCFPA Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 4, 2017 – 10:00 am

HCFPA Meetings are held at the Family Place – 9309 N. Florida Ave. in Tampa near E. Busch Blvd.

FEC in-service: Topic: "Psychotropic Medications"

Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Main Office – 1002 E. Dr. MLKing, Jr. Blvd. in Tampa, FL (Entrance in the rear of the College Hill Conference Center)
Sorry, child care is NOT available for this training.

FEC In-Service Training Tuesday: TOPIC: TBA

Tuesday, March 28th, 2017 at 6:00 pm

"Training Tuesday" Sessions are held at the W.E. Davis Family Support Center – 5407 N. 30th St. Tampa
Child care is available on a limited basis due to safety concerns. Please RSVP to your FDS.

FEC's Helpful Fostering Tips:

1. You **MUST** call FEC **IMMEDIATELY** to let us know when children are placed or leave your home.
2. You **MUST** complete 12 hours of in-service training annually for re-licensing. You must complete at least 3 to 4 hours quarterly. You should complete a combination of classroom and on-line training throughout the year.
3. Mileage and Child Care Reimbursement Requests **MUST** be submitted by the 5th day of the month. Reimbursements will **ONLY** be issued for the past 60 days.
4. You and the Transporter **MUST** call Eckerd Placement immediately when children arrive at your home. The number to call: **(813) 210-4276**



For Relative Caregivers

SHARED RESOURCES

The Family Enrichment Center (FEC) Grandparents Support Group held its monthly meeting, **Monday, February 13, 2017**. The support group brings caregivers' together to discuss issues that are meaningful, productive and meant to reduce a grandparent's feeling of isolation. Group members learn from and share their common concerns. Each month, representatives from the community are invited to share information and resources from voiced concerns of the grandparents. The issue of choosing a child care and the developmental needs and personality of the child was noted as an interest. The following resources were shared:

School Readiness – Child Development & Pre-K Learning Activities

Center for Girls – Summer Enrichment @ The Center – ages 6 to 16; Tutoring, sewing, ceramics & pottery, nail sculpting, hair styling, make-up techniques

Tampa Family Health Center – Mobile Dental Bus & preventive dental services – on-board x-rays & treatment – **NO CHARGE** for services.

Important Dates...

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grandparent/Caregiver Support Group
Monday, March 20th, 2017 at 10:00 am to NOON

W.E. Davis Family Support Center – 5407 N. 30th St. Tampa

Guest Speakers:

Early Learning Coalition – Child Development

Neighborhood Service Center – NEW Pilot Program to help Relative Caregivers w/rent & electric bills; part-time jobs & financial help with TABE testing, books & tuition

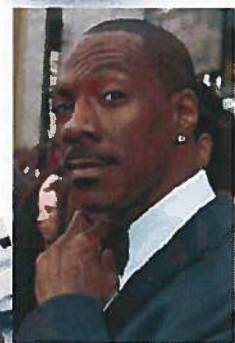
Dept. of Children & Families – Changes in TANF, food stamps & Medicaid benefits

Humana – Health care benefits

Sorry, Child care is not available for this event

Did You Know...

Many well-known individuals spent time in foster or kinship care or were adopted.



From: Foster Focus Magazine

Tina Turner, Singer/Entertainer (Kinship Care); Pitbull, Rapper (Foster Care); Cher, Actress/Singer (Foster Care); Sylvester Stallone, Actor/Director (Foster Care); Esai Morales, Actor (Foster Care); Bill Clinton, 42nd U.S. President (Kinship Care/Adopted); Nancy Reagan, First Lady (Kinship Care/Adopted); Eddie Murphy, Actor/Comedian (Foster Care)

Parent-Child Visits and Shared Parenting

Shared parenting is a practice in which foster parents cultivate positive, supportive relationships with birth parents. Shared parenting relationships are based on trust, while keeping the safety and best interests of the child in focus.

Parent-child visiting and shared parenting are a natural fit. As Kate, a mother whose child spent time in foster care, explains in the box below, contact between foster and birth parents—including contact during visitation—can sometimes blossom into relationships that help parents make the changes needed to reunify their families.

Shared Parenting: A Gradual Process

Shared parenting doesn't happen all at once. Like most relationships, it usually develops gradually. After the initial meeting during the first week the child enters foster care, shared parenting often starts with low-level contact between the birth and foster parents—for example, through the exchange of a weekly journal documenting the child's week and asking questions that only the birth parent can answer.

As everyone grows more comfortable, the relationship between birth and foster parents might progress, involving steps such as:

- Recording the family reading a book and playing it for the child at bedtime
- Going shopping with the birth parent for shoes for the child
- Having dinner at the foster parent's home.

Visit-Related Shared Parenting

Here are suggestions for engaging in shared parenting in and around parent-child visits:

- Discuss the family's expectations about contacts and visits within the foster home, birth home, and community. Are visits doable with everyone's schedule? Can the child call the family whenever he wants or just at certain times of the day?
- Welcome the child's family into your home, and set boundaries with both the parents and child about any areas that are off limits (usually bedrooms). Or go with the child and the family if the child wants to give a tour of the whole house.
- Encourage regular contact between parents and children, as approved by the placing agency. Help make parents feel comfortable visiting in the foster

home, or work with the family to find a neutral spot where everyone feels comfortable (school, a mall, library, restaurant, etc.).

- Reassure the parents your job as a foster parent is to keep the child safe and provide temporary care. Remind them you are not a replacement for the child's parents.
- Send the child to visits with art work, school work, or even homework they can work on with their parents.
- Send the child to visits dressed in clothing that the birth parents have provided for them.
- Write down important information such as milestones, illnesses, new food choices, and updates in a journal and send it with the child to visits.
- Try to arrange the child's schedule so that the birth parent can feed the baby a bottle or give their child a snack during the visit. (Sources for these suggestions: Foster, 2009; Buncombe Co. DSS, 2009)

What Shared Parenting Accomplishes

- Child's relationship with the birth parent is maintained
- Foster parents form a realistic picture of birth parent's strengths and needs
- Both birth and foster parents have more information about the child
- Foster parents model appropriate behavior and parenting techniques
- Birth parents develop an understanding of the child's needs
- Smoother transitions back into the birth parent's home
- Ongoing support for the family after the child returns home

From: *Fostering Perspectives*; Vol. 15, No. 1 • November 2010