



Mason City Trainings- Mohawk Square

- January 19..... “Fosterware”Mary Foy
Organization and Documentation....Tess Armstrong
Med Management
- February 16..... Family Interaction
- March 16.....Elevate.....Ruth Phillips
- April 20.....TBA.....

Social time is from 6:30 – 7:00 pm. Training will be from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Please bring a snack to share.

Charles City Training

January 12th at the Osage Alliance Church located at 726 State Street in Osage. As usual, the support group will begin at 6 PM and go until 8:30. Daycare will be provided at the cost of \$2 per child. The Training being offered is: “Children first, Working with Bio Parents.” The trainers will be Sharon Brown and Elise Lowers and will bring an amazing dual perspective throughout the life of a case surrounding fears, concerns, struggles and success’ from both a Resource parent’s perspective as well as through a Birth Family perspective.

IFAPA Training

We have posted our spring training schedule on our website. The schedule includes trainings being offered February through June 2010. We are offering a couple new trainings this spring, including CPR & First Aid. IFAPA trainings are free, with the exception of the IFAPA Conference and the CPR & First Aid classes. Click on the links below to read about our new trainings.

7 Ways to Foster Love, Respect and Communication
http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/7WaystoFosterLove.pdf

The Journey from Foster Care to Adoption and Beyond
http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/TheJourneytoAdoption.pdf

Cultural Diversity
http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/CulturalDiversity.pdf

CPR & First Aid
(Cost \$25 per person, Must call 800-277-8145 ext. 1 to register two weeks in advance)
http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/CPRandFirstAid.pdf

Please note there is more IFAPA trainings in Mason City that you can pre-register for on the IFAPA website. Sign up now to ensure the trainings aren’t cancelled!

Ames Area

Jan. 16, 2010 9am-4:30pm	Up, Down & All Around - ADHD, ODD & Pediatric Bipolar Disorder	6 hours	Marshalltown AEA 267
Jan. 30, 2010 9am-12:15pm	What the Heck is Going On?	3 hours	Ames Country Inn & Suites
Jan. 30, 2010 1:30pm-4:45pm	Breaking Barriers: Effectively Working with Birth Parents	3 hours	Ames Country Inn & Suites

Cedar Rapids Area

Jan. 9, 2010 9am-4:30pm	Teen Anger: How to Regulate Your Home Atmosphere!	6 hours	Iowa City Quality Inn
Jan. 23, 2010 9am-4:30pm	Working with Birth Families	6 hours	Cedar Rapids Best Western - LB

Waterloo

Jan. 16, 2010 9am-4:30pm	Mentoring Teenage Men Into Adulthood	6 hours	Cedar Falls Holiday Inn
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Date & Time	Training Details	Location	Training Contact
Jan 12, 2010 6:00 - 8:00pm	Children first, Working with Bio Parents 2 hours credit	Osage Osage Alliance Church, 726 State Street	Charles City Area Support Group Joshua Pedretti 563-419-7057
Jan 12, 2010 6:30 - 9:00pm	TOPIC - CPR (\$15/person, RSVP is required) Social 6:30pm, Training 7-9pm 2 hrs credit, snacks provided Childcare available (0-12yrs) Elevate also meets	Waterloo Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 W 8th St	Black Hawk Foster & Adoptive Group Dianna Seedorff 888-622-4521
Jan 19, 2010 7:00 - 9:00pm	TOPIC - Autism: A Parent's Perspective with Dr. Suzanne Bartlett 2 hours credit Food and childcare provided	Waverly Vineyard Comm Church, 319 West Bremer	Allison Area Foster Parents Nancy Magnall 877-467-4100
Jan 19, 2010 6:30 - 9:00pm	TOPIC - Medication Management & Organization/ Documentation Requirements 6:30 social, bring a snack to share, training from 7-9pm	Mason City DHS Office, Liberty Room 22 N Georgia	North IA Foster & Adoptive Parents Association Christie McGuire 641-923-3094

Medication Management Training



As part of the new DHS Rules, foster parents will be required to take Medication Management Training. All foster parents must have this requirement completed by October 1, 2010. In order to complete this requirement, foster parents must read the "[Medication Management](#)" booklet and answer the ten review questions on pages 14 and 15 of this booklet. Foster parents must turn in their complete questionnaire to their Iowa KidsNet Licensing Worker in order to receive credit for completing this required course.

This training is worth one hour of foster parent training credit.

[View MEDICATION MANAGEMENT booklet](#)

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST 7-9 A.M. FEBRUARY 1, 2010

State Capitol Building – Legislative Dining Room – Des Moines, Iowa

IFAPA members are 6050 voices strong. Iowa's foster and adoptive families are improving the child welfare and child protective system by advocating for positive change. Each year the public policy agenda defines issues IFAPA members have identified and prioritized as important to families. IFAPA strives to work collaboratively with the Iowa Department of Human Services and other child welfare agencies to address the needs of children in foster care and Iowa's foster and adoptive families. IFAPA will continue to advocate for innovative and established best practices to improve the Iowa Child Welfare system.

The Priorities

1. Meeting Children's Special Needs
Fund Adoption Subsidy//Foster Care Maintenance Payments
Foster parents being included as part of the child's team
Ongoing services provided to children and families
2. Access to Medical and Dental Care
3. Improve the Ability and Responsibility of Guardians Ad Litem to Protect and Promote Children's Well-Being
4. Protect Child Welfare programs during tough financial times.

Get to know your Legislator

The most effective means of communicating with your legislators is through direct contact, either at their home, at a public meeting, in the state house or on the phone.

Legislators are generally very willing to meet or speak with constituents. When speaking directly with a legislator, however, it is important to keep the following basic rules in mind:

1. Consider yourself an information source. Legislators have limited time, staff and interest on any one issue. They can't be as informed as they might like to be on all the issues, including the issues that concern you. Your job is to provide them with information.
2. Tell the truth. There is no faster way to lose credibility than to give false or misleading information to a legislator.
3. Know who else is on your side. It is helpful for a legislator to know what other groups, individuals, state agencies and/or legislators support your cause.
4. Know the opposition. Anticipate who the opposition will be. Provide legislators with information to counter your opposition's arguments.
5. Make the Legislator aware of any personal connection you may have. No matter how insignificant you may feel it is, if you have friends, relatives or colleagues in common, LET THEM KNOW.
6. Don't be afraid to admit you don't know something. If a legislator wants information you don't have or asks something you don't know, tell them and then offer to get the information for them.
7. Be specific. If you want a vote, information, answers to a question – whatever it is, make sure you ask for it directly and get an answer.
8. Follow up. It is important to find out if your legislator did what was promised. It is also important that you thank them if they voted for your position.
9. Don't "burn any bridges". It is easy to get emotional over issues. That's fine, but be sure that no matter what happens you don't permanently alienate a legislator. Your strongest opponent on one issue may be an ally on another.
10. Remember – you have a RIGHT to be heard. Your tax money pays legislators' salaries, pays for the paper they write on, and the phone they use to call you. They are responsible to you, and nine times out of ten are grateful for your input.

Find your legislature

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/findleg/>

ETV/Foster Grant.

College Aid will be moving to the new online process next month – the new process will allow students to complete a 'wizard' – a series of approximately 10 questions – to determine which state programs they might qualify for. Students will also be able to complete one online application to apply for all eligible state programs (including ETV and Foster Grant).

After January 18, 2010, Students will still go to www.iowacollegeaid.gov to apply – just like previous years. In addition to the new look of the application, students will now notice that in order to fill out the application, they will have to create a username and password (they can go thru the wizard without creating an account, but will be prompted to create the account before they can apply.)

We're still awarding first-come, first-serve basis so the clock won't start until the app is up. Preference will be given to returning students – just like in previous years. Students who applied this year, regardless of their award status, will receive an e-mail from me once the application is available. I will also notify Aftercare, IFAPA, KidsNet and elevate. High school guidance counselors will be informed of the new process by College Aid Commission.

It is not required that students create an I Have a Plan Iowa account prior to going through the Wizard and Common Application. An account can be created during the Wizard/application process.

To view a step-by-step cheat sheet on creating an account, visit this link
<http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/images/docs/file/IHAPI/useraccount.pdf>

AlYad received a large donation of pajamas in all sizes from the Pajama Jam event held in Ventura and organized by Girl Scout Kaitlyn Chizek. Also donated were shoes in many different sizes. Please contact Corinne at 201-0180 or email at: Corinne@alyad.org to reserve a pair of pajamas for the foster children in your home.

AlYad hours: Monday afternoon 1-3 PM and Thursday morning 9:30 - 11:00 or call 201-0180 to set an appointment.

AlYad will be open January 19th at 6:00 pm (before training) if you would like to take some time to browse for clothing.

