

JUNE 21, 2016

We Are Family!

How LGBT Parents Can Support Children

"There's so many different ways to be a family. It doesn't matter who's in the family. But it matters that you love each other and take care of each other. That's a family." — A child's comment from the Groundspark documentary film "That's a Family" (www.groundspark.org)

Families come in many shapes and sizes. But, like the quote above says, there are so many ways to be a family, and the primary ingredients are commitment, love, and caring for one another.

Children who grow up in an LGBT-headed family may be faced with questions about why they have two moms or two dads or what the gender identity of a parent is. Just because they're not talking about their family, doesn't mean they're not thinking about it or worrying about what to say. As a parent in an LGBT-headed household, you can empower your child to know what to say, when to disclose or not disclose, and how to deal with other people's reactions.

CONTINUE READING

(Source: Coalition for Children, Youth & Families - Wisconsin)

HELPING CHILDREN WITH TRAUMATIC SEPARATION

The relationship with a parent or primary caregiver is critical to a child's sense of self, safety, and trust. However, many children experience the loss of a caregiver, either permanently due to death, or for varying amounts of time due to other circumstances. Children may develop posttraumatic responses when separated from their caregiver. The following provides information and suggestions for helping children who experience traumatic separation from a caregiver.

CONTINUE READING

(Source: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network)

Involving Youth in Foster Care in Court Cases

New data show that youth in foster care want to be involved with their legal proceedings and that courts are able to more effectively intervene on their behalf when they do. The American Bar Association's (ABA's) Center on Children and the Law issued a report, *Engaging Youth in Court: A National Analysis*, summarizing data collected from seven state judicial assessments.

Findings show the following:

- Decisions are better informed when youth are present in court.
- Youth want to have a voice in court.
- Most youth report the court experience as positive, even if the decision does not go their way.
- Youth feel as though their voice is heard in court.
- Youth are most concerned about potential placement, school, permanency, and visitation rights.
- Barriers to youth involvement (e.g., transportation issues) are not insurmountable.

The report recommends the following to encourage better youth engagement:

- Youth should be present at dependency court hearings.
- Transportation issues should not be a reason to exclude youth.
- In some cases, youth absence from court is preferable (e.g., if the judge determines it is not in his/her best interest).
- Youth should receive child-friendly hearing notices.
- Youth should be allowed to bring a support person with them.
- Youth should be briefed ahead of a court appearance and debriefed after the hearing as to what to expect, how to act, what's next, etc.
- Judges should engage the youth and explain what is going on in age-appropriate language.

(Source: Children's Bureau Express / American Bar Association)

The ABC's of Early Childhood Connections:

Nurturing Social & Emotional Development in Infants & Toddlers

Participants will learn the basic stages of infant and young children's social-emotional development, how early experiences shape this development, and ways in which adults can support children's healthy social-emotional development including self-regulation. The course will also provide an overview of how adverse childhood experiences, such as exposure to substance use, domestic violence, and/or other forms of adversity impact development. (Trainer: Gwen Babberl, LMHC, CADC)

Saturday, July 16 (9am-12:15pm) CEDAR RAPIDS

Fostering Attachment Within Our Families to Build Connection, Effective Consequences & Restored Hope

In this workshop, we will explore the effects of trauma on attachment and understand the connection between attachment and understanding consequences. We will then delve more deeply into understanding troubling behaviors such as chronic lying, stealing, and harm to self or others. We will explore the difference between punishment that increases difficulty with attachment and effective trauma-informed consequences that restore hope and dignity to the child. (Trainer: Lois Smidt) PLEASE NOTE: If you have attended either of the [Fostering Hope and Attachment with Youth](#) or [What Are You Trying to Tell Me: Responding Effectively to Troubling Behaviors](#) trainings presented by Krista McCalley and Lois Smidt, some of this will be a refresher; however new discoveries are happening all the time in the science of trauma and the brain, and new information will be incorporated.

Saturday, July 16 (1:15pm-4:30pm) CEDAR RAPIDS

40 Developmental Assets: Increasing Positive Factors in Youth

The 40 Development Assets help families to identify protective factors for youth of all ages. This workshop will help families recognize ways in which they can support the young people in their families live happy and healthy lives. Participants will be given practical tools and ideas of easy things they can incorporate into their everyday lives to empower the youth in their family. Additionally, participants will learn about family meetings and how they can be a useful strategy for family management. (Trainer: Bobbie Jo Sheridan, LBSW)

Saturday, July 16 (9am-12:15pm) DAVENPORT

Tweens, Teens & Technology:

Going Beyond Texting & Facebook to Keep Your Family Safe

Children and teens use technology at very high rates and many are not prepared for the consequences of using technology. In this class, we'll dig in to popular social media sites and apps that kids are using and also look at cyber bullying and sexting. Parents will be given practical tools to keep their children safe online and how to set up family technology policies. Additionally, we'll discuss online communication between youth and birth families. We'll look at ways to have open communication with youth around social media. (Trainer: Bobbie Jo Sheridan, LBSW)

Saturday, July 16 (1:15pm-4:30pm) DAVENPORT

Saturday, Sept. 17 (1:15pm-4:30pm) ANKENY

Law and Order: Foster Care

Have you been to court? Do you know what happened when you were there? Did a case worker suggest you bring your foster youth to court but you weren't certain why? Come learn the ins and outs of the juvenile court system, district court system, and the various legal issues that impact foster care. Come for the practical advice about how to make the most impact on the youth who are relying on you to foster them in all areas of their lives, including the court system. (Trainer: Annie von Gillern, JD)

Saturday, July 23 (9am-12:15pm) ANKENY

TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS - CALL 800-277-8145 OR REGISTER ONLINE

Educational Options After High School for Students with Special Needs

Until now, some students and parents haven't yet considered college as an option due to developmental/intellectual disabilities; well it's time for that thinking to change.

CONTINUE READING

(Source: Parenting Special Needs Magazine)



IFAPA's Appreciation Day for Iowa's foster, adoptive and kinship families will be held at Adventureland Park in Altoona on Saturday, August 20th.

FAMILY TICKETS:

\$23 per ticket for all immediate foster and adoptive family members ages 4 and older living in your home. All children under age 3 are FREE!

GUEST TICKETS:

Tickets may be purchased for other family members (not living in your home) or friends for \$28 per person. (Regular admission tickets are \$42 per person)

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE

ORDER TICKETS VIA MAIL & VIEW ADDITIONAL DETAILS

