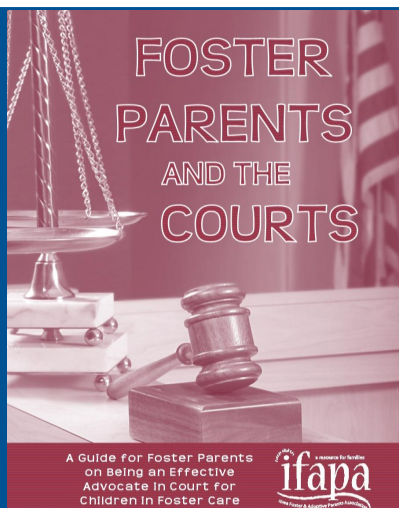


JULY 5, 2017



## Free Book from IFAPA

As a foster parent you have a critical role to play in the life of a child. Not only are you responsible for the child's day-to-day care, but because you spend so much time caring for and observing them, you are able to provide the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the court with valuable information that is needed to make important decisions regarding the child's welfare. One of the important needs of a child placed in foster care is the need to receive permanency timely. Juvenile court and DHS have the responsibility to assist the birth family in rectifying the problems that led to the removal of the child, allowing the child to return home safely.

Our **Foster Parents and the Courts** booklet was written in order to help you understand the court process. It will provide you with valuable information about your rights and responsibilities, the role of key participants in the court process, and how you can be most effective in advocating for the best interests of the children in your care.

### HOW TO GET A FREE COPY OF THIS BOOK:

Send your request to Phyllis Pierce at [ppierce@ifapa.org](mailto:ppierce@ifapa.org) or call 515-289-4225 or find it [online here](#).



## JOIN US AT ADVENTURELAND IN AUGUST!

All foster, adoptive and kinship families are invited to attend IFAPA's Adventureland Day on Saturday, August 19th.

Tickets are available at a greatly reduced rate. Tickets must be purchased by Monday, August 14th!

[ORDER TICKETS VIA MAIL](#)  
[ORDER TICKETS & PAY ONLINE](#)

## Openness in Adoption

### Building Relationships Between Adoptive and Birth Families

This factsheet from the Child Welfare Information Gateway is designed to support adoptive families who are considering and/or maintaining open adoption. It describes open adoption and various levels of openness, trends towards increasing openness, and the potential benefits of open adoption. It also offers strategies to build and maintain relationships with the children's birth families.

[VIEW THE FACTSHEET](#)

## Adoption Respite Still Available

Adoption Respite is still available for adoptive parents who have an Iowa subsidized adoption. The number of days and the amount of payment to the provider has not changed. The only change is the organization who is processing these payments after July 1.

[Find your New Adoption Respite Billing Form](#)

## Has Your Child Been to the Doctor Recently?

Please remember children in foster care should have at a minimum, one annual physical, see the dentist every six months, and attend other medical and mental health appointments as required. Foster parents are required to keep records of all medical, dental, and mental health appointments and give that information to the child's caseworker when the child leaves that placement.



# Planning for College

Following these tips will ensure that students are preparing for life after graduation and success as they continue education beyond high school!

## 8th Grade

- Get involved in a summer reading program at your local library to keep your reading and comprehension skills fresh.
- Talk to members of your family about the things they did after high school. This can help you to consider different options and think more critically about what careers would appeal most to you.
- In your spare time, begin doing online research about colleges. In many cases, you can even watch a virtual tour on an institution's website.

## 9th Grade

- Use your free time during this summer month to do some reading!
- Find a part-time summer job to earn money and start saving for college.
- Find an organization or cause that you care about that needs assistance and volunteer in your free time.

## 10th Grade

- Take some time to discuss college expenses with your parents/guardians. Find out if they are able to help with college expenses, so you can plan for the remainder.
- Spend time making positive connections with community members. They will be great resources for you when applying to college and for scholarships.
- Consider spending time on a college campus. Whether you are attending a summer camp, going to a conference or just visiting for the day, a visit will be helpful.

## 11th Grade

- Look over your class schedule for senior year and double check that you are on track for graduation based on the credits you need and the classes you plan to take.
- Keep working at that summer job or spend time volunteering. Both will help you to build your resume and a job can help you save for college.
- Create a budget for the coming year to make sure you can put money away to help pay for colleges expenses. It is much closer than you think!

## 12th Grade

- If you have not already, attend your college orientation and register for fall semester classes.

## College

- If you are living with a randomly assigned roommate, reach out to them and decide together who will bring certain necessities for your dorm room.
- Make a list of things you will need to pack for college so you do not forget anything.

SOURCE: Iowa College Aid

## SUMMER TRAININGS

### How to Talk So Everyone Will Listen

Communication becomes even more valuable when the parent is dealing with individuals who have experienced significant emotional trauma. Participants will learn communication skills and ways to provide consequences relevant to the behavior.

3 Hours Foster Parent Training Credit

#### Sioux City

Sat., July 22 (9am-12:15 pm)

### Connecting the Dots: Emotions to Behaviors

Connect the Dots is a class to help parents understand the connections between the behaviors you see and the emotions your child may be feeling.

3 Hours Foster Parent Training Credit

#### Sioux City

Sat., July 22 (1:15—4:30 p.m.)

### Utilizing the Nurtured Heart Approach

The Nurtured Heart Approach® is a set of core methodologies originally developed for working with the most difficult child or teen. It has a proven, transformative impact on every child, including those with behavioral diagnosis such as ADHD, Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, and Reactive Attachment Disorder – almost always without the need for medications or long-term treatment.

6 Hours Foster Parent Training Credit

#### Iowa City

Sat., July 29 (9:00 am—4:30 p.m.)

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AND SEE ALL TRAININGS\*\*](#)