

Reservations for training sessions can be made by calling (574) 533-1234 or 800-282-0809, ext. 243. Classes may be cancelled if not enough persons register. Alternative training is available through books, audio and video. A web site at www.fosterparents.com lists approved foster parent trainings. For a list of pre-approved materials as well as the training verification form, go to www.oaklawn.org, click on Services and Programs, then Services for Children and Adolescents, then Collaborative Programs. Look for Traditional Foster Care to find the forms. Remember, traditional homes can receive up to four hours and special needs or therapeutic homes can receive up to eight training hours annually through books, audio, video or internet. Certification of the training hours are dependent upon approval from the training coordinator. Please note that child care is NOT provided during trainings.

Both Elkhart County and St. Joseph County trainings are held at various locations. Check individual trainings for location. You **MUST** register for classes in advance so that we can prepare for the number attending.

Please note: Foster parents of children with disabilities can receive financial support through the Family Involvement Fund for expenses for conferences, training events, and other activities. Currently this rate is up to \$250 per person, per program year and up to \$500 per family. Applications must be received at least 30 days prior to the first day of the event. For more information, call Cindy Bard at 1-800-825-4733 or email fif@indiana.edu.

Area Inservices

Support Groups

Elkhart County, contact Jody Richards at (574) 533-1234, ext. 218. **St. Joseph County** group meets the 1st Thursday of each month Contact Tom & Linda Cleveland at (574) 232-3404.

Marshall/Starke County group meets the 3rd Monday of every other month at the Plymouth Library (May 19, 6-7:30 p.m.). Contact Melissa Bachtel at (574) 935-3052.

Grandparents as Parents

- 1st Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m., at 3609 Mishawaka Ave., South Bend.
- 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Living Stones Church, 718 East Don Moyer Ave, South Bend. For more information, call (574) 232-6890.

Online training

Check out <http://www.fosterclub.com/training/index.cfm> for free online that can be counted as inservice hours.

New Handbook!

The Indiana Foster Family Resource Guide is now available! The purpose of the guide is to provide insight into areas of parenting that will be most helpful to foster/adoptive parents. The information will be distributed to existing and

prospective foster/adoptive parents as well as those who are seeking licensure. Throughout this guide, links to related policies are listed by policy name and web address where possible. The guide can be accessed online at: <http://www.in.gov/dcs/files/1003NewFosterGuide4Web.pdf> or go to www.in.gov/dcs, Programs/Services, Placement, Foster Care and Indiana Foster Family Resource Guide. Each local DCS office and LCPA will soon have printed copies available as well.

Children's Museum

The holiday season is the perfect time to visit the Children's Museum of Indianapolis! All Indiana licensed foster care families can enjoy the gift of a free one year membership to the Children's Museum. Just bring a copy of your Indiana foster care license and picture identification when you visit the box office to complete your membership application. From November 28 – January 4, enjoy traditional holiday favorites at The Children's Museum, such as the Yule Slide, Jingles the Jolly Bear and visits with Santa. To plan your visit, go to www.childrensmuseum.org today! For more information about the foster family membership, call their customer service center at 1-800-820-6214.

Preservice

Required training: 20 hours for foster parents or 26 hours for adoptive parents. Day one of each training session must be taken first. All pre-service classes include Universal Precautions and First Aid Training; you do not need to sign up for these classes separately.

Elkhart

December 6, 13, 20, January 10
Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Oaklawn, Elkhart

St. Joseph County

Trainings will start again in January.

First Aid & Safety

Meets criteria for certification and State requirements for Foster Parents. CPR—due before certification expires; First Aid—due every three years; Universal Precautions—must be current at relicensure.

CPR

- Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend
- Saturday, December 13, 1:00–4:00 p.m., Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend

Universal Precautions/ Bloodborne Pathogens

- Monday, December 15, 6:30 p.m., Oaklawn, Elkhart

First Aid (immediately following Universal Precautions training)

- Monday, December 15, 6:30 p.m., Oaklawn, Elkhart

Inservice classes

10–20 hours of training required each year. **Classes are 6:00–9:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified.**

"Freedom Writers" Movie & Discussion

**Monday, December 1, Oaklawn,
Elkhart**

Teens finding hope through writing.

"Georgia Rule" Movie & Discussion

**Tuesday, December 9, Juvenile
Justice Center, South Bend**

Women overcoming three generations of dysfunction.

Address Service Requested

Important information for
Foster Parents!

Goshen, Indiana 46527
330 Lakeview Drive
P.O. Box 809

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