



Newsletter

August 2015

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

STATE WIDE TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS THREE LOCATIONS AND DATES TO CHOOSE FROM

What Foster Parents Need to Know

August 29th

2015 Madison County DHR office 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

Foster parents from all surrounding counties invited to attend. Those from out of county will be eligible to claim mileage reimbursement.

Lunch will be provided.

There will only be room for about 80 people so registration is very important.

Registration can be done by email to buddy@afapa.org.

6 hours of training credits will be available.

September 12th

2015 Shocco Springs Conference Center 8:30AM – 3:30

with one hour lunch break.

This training is available to all foster parents. Those traveling from out of county will be eligible for mileage reimbursement.

There will be a limited number of rooms available for the night of September 11th for those traveling from out of county. Three meals will be provided to those spending the night, dinner on 11th, breakfast and lunch on the 12th.

Registration for everyone attending is \$20 per person with additional \$20 for those requesting a private room (only one person in room). Call Shocco Springs to register 800-280-1105 or 256-761-1100.

September 26th

2015 Baldwin County DHR office 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

Foster parents from all surrounding counties invited to attend.

Those from out of county will be eligible to claim mileage reimbursement.

Lunch will be provided.

There will only be room for about 80 people so registration is very important.

Registration can be done by email to buddy@afapa.org.

6 hours of training credits will be available.

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A message from the President



Hope everyone reading this has had a good Summer. It has been a very busy Summer for all of us at AFAPA. Many of us have been attending week 8 and panel night of GPS classes.

Board members have also attended many local foster parent association meetings, and AFAPA advocates have been attending meetings with foster parents all over the state.

I had the opportunity to attend the National Foster Parent Conference in Virginia in June this year. We had a total of 14 foster/adoptive parents from Alabama attend this year. It gave us the opportunity to see and hear some very good speakers and attend some great workshops. We have invited many of those to attend our conference next year May 5th, 6th, and 7th at Shocco Springs. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Please visit our website at www.afapa.org and visit us on facebook Alabama Foster Parents.

I hope many of you take advantage of the training opportunities AFAPA is offering in August and September this year. Please register ahead of time so we will have a count. Space is limited.

Please read and enjoy this issue of our newsletter. If you know a foster parent who is not receiving this let me know and it will be available online at www.afapa.org.

Buddy Hooper

AFAPA Board President

POLICY REMINDER FOR FOSTER PARENTS CONCERNING DAY CARE PROVIDERS DATED 7/16/2015

No child should be receiving services in a facility that is not licensed by DHR. Children in DHR custody must be in a licensed facility. Any future child care arrangements made by DHR must be with a licensed child care facility. In order to implement this requirement the Department will begin moving children to licensed facilities on a regional schedule. Check with your local DHR to make sure the child care facility you are using meets these requirements.

MEET JAMIAYA, SHAMYA & KAMIYON



Jamiaya, born December 2002, **Shamyia**, born August 2004 and **Kamiyon** (Millie) born July 2012, are a beautiful sibling group of three who are hoping to be placed together through adoption. They are currently separated and only seeing each other through visitation. These girls need structure and routine with a family that is patient but consistent. They would do well in both a 2 parent family as well as a single female household. Jamiaya is described as laid back and happy. She enjoys dancing and hip hop music. She enjoys video games and watching TV. Jamiaya is a picky eater and doesn't like veggies, seafood or anything with onions. She loves macaroni and cheese! She enjoys church and is involved in the youth group. She has seasonal allergies but they are controlled. Shamyia is a friendly, outgoing and doesn't meet a stranger. She makes friends easily and is not a picky eater. She enjoys all types of foods and loves pizza! She enjoys cheerleading, step team, playing basketball and going to the park. She enjoys church as well and loves Sunday School. Her favorite holiday is Christmas! Kamiyon (Millie) is a precious girl who smiles all the time! She enjoys playing with baby dolls and is very friendly! She is starting to make sentences and is working on being potty trained. She is a sweetheart!

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

A Special Thank You
to our friends at
Heart Gallery
for supplying us with
photos of the children in
need of adoption.



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PARTNERSHIP:

The responsibility of caring for and planning for children who need a home away from home is shared between the Department of Human Resources, Foster Families, and Birth parents/Families. It is a shared responsibility that requires mutual respect between the participants. The partnership requires that foster parents provide a nurturing environment, that DHR provide services necessary to the child, foster parents and birth parents,.... and that birth parents participate in and provide support for the child during a period of uncertainty for the child. This partnership works best when all parties focus on the needs of the child.

COMMUNICATION:

Communication is the process by which we exchange information between individuals or groups of people. This is a process where we try as clearly and accurately as we can, to convey our thoughts, intentions and objectives.

POLICY:

ISP policy is one of the most important policies. If the ISP policy is followed the plan for the child/children should be clear to both the foster parent as well as bio families.

Monthly Visits: These visits should be a time when the worker meets with the child and engages in some conversation or activity with the child. This is also a great time for foster parents to communicate with the social worker and give updates on the child/children.

FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS:

FPBR consist of 23 tenants and became a State law in 2004. Therefore it is a law and not policy. However every tenant has policy to back it up. A copy of the FPBR should be given to every social worker and every foster parent. Both social worker and foster parent need to be very familiar and knowledgeable of the FPBR.

PANEL DISCUSSION:

A panel of foster parents will discuss their experience in fostering, adoption and kinship care. This will be a group of parents who have many years of working in various roles with DHR. This will be an interactive panel discussion with questions being taken from participants.

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Local Foster Parent Meetings: Another good source of foster parent training is to attend your local foster parent monthly meetings if there is one in your county. Most offer at least 1 hour training at each meeting. If you don't have a local foster parent group contact AFAPA for help in getting one started.

APAC Support Groups: There are many APAC support groups that meet monthly for adoptive parents and those considering adoption. The current groups are listed on the website listed below. If you would like to start a group in your area contact an APAC representative.

APAC trainings: Visit www.childrensaid.org/apac to find out about more training opportunities by way of webinars, APAC resource library etc.





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AFAPA NEWSLETTER INFO:

Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to afapa@afapa.org. Otherwise, mail to AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058. Deadline dates fall the first of the month in February, May, August, & November.



Baldwin County Foster/Adoptive Parent Association will host a Walk Me Home event on September 12th 6 until 9 PM at Loxley Park. Visit the website for more details www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome

If your county would like to have a walk contact Buddy Hooper for more details on how to get started.

