



Foster Family Network News

Presenting The Foster PRIDE Digital Curriculum



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Welcome to the use of the Foster PRIDE Digital Curriculum, one of the innovative professional development components of the PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) Program! The development of this computer-based curriculum is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Learning Anytime, Anywhere Program and is designed to provide educational opportunities for individuals who are unable to easily access traditional methods of trainings. Our foster parents fit that criteria, as your responsibilities in caring for children with multiple needs may make it difficult for you to attend out-of-home trainings. The CD-Rom version of the PRIDE trainings will provide an "at home" alternative for foster parents. This

complete set of modules will provide foster parents an access to 57 hours of supplemental training hours in addition to the requirements of the GTF (Governor's Task Force) Model. Each region will have access to the PRIDE Digital Curriculum. For further information please contact, your coordinator.



"There are no failures - just experiences and your reactions to them."

Tom Krause



EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT TRAINING

Educational Surrogate Parents (ESPs) are appointed for children in foster care who receive special education services or who may be in need of special education services. An ESP can be appointed for children when birth parents are deceased, unknown, cannot be located, parental rights are terminated or when birth parents voluntarily give consent for an ESP to be appointed. Sometimes Family Court judges order that an ESP be appointed.

Foster parents are encouraged to take the two-hour training to become Educational Surrogate Parents for the children in their home who receive special education services. Community volunteers are also needed to serve as ESPs for children in group homes and residential treatment facilities. ESPs play an important role as advocates, team members, and partners with the child’s school.

EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT TRAINING SCHEDULE
Winter/Spring 2008

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

All classes in New Castle County are at the DFS office at University Plaza (across the driveway from the Acme) at 263 Chapman Road - Cambridge Building, Newark. **Morning classes** are in the Office Conference Room (use main entrance at the back of the building). **Evening classes** are in the Large Conference Room (use side entrance - towards Acme).

Wednesday, March 12th

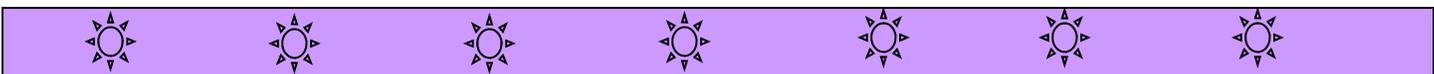
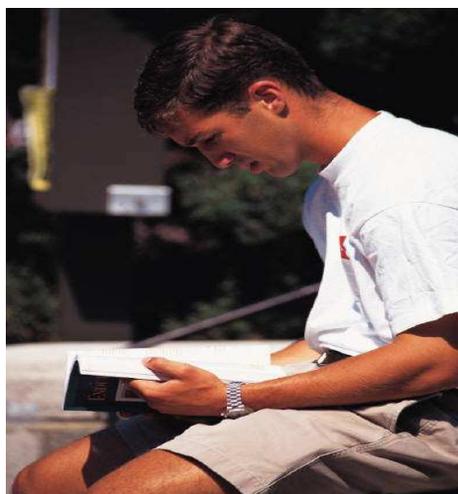
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **or** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17th

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 22nd

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **or** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT TRAINING SCHEDULE (CON'T)
Winter/Spring 2008

KENT COUNTY

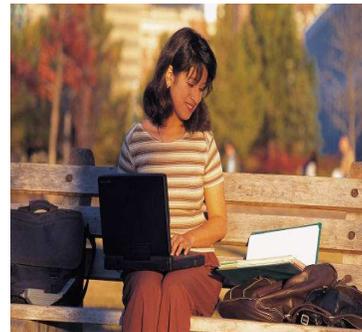
All classes in Kent County are held at the DFS office in the Barrett Building, 821 Silver Lake Boulevard in Dover. The classes are on the second floor in Conference Room C.

Wednesday, April 2nd

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **or** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 15th

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **or** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



SUSSEX COUNTY

Sussex County classes are held in **Milford** and in **Georgetown**. Classes in Milford are at the DFS office, 10-12 Church Street (one-story building just down the street from Avenue United Methodist Church). The Milford office is available for daytime classes only. Classes in Georgetown are at the Georgetown State Service Center, 546 S. Bedford Street.

Wednesday, March 5th

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **or** 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Georgetown State Service Center

Both the morning and evening class on March 5th are in the DHSS Conference Room which is located behind the receptionist's desk.

Wednesday, April 30th

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the DFS office in Milford **or** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Georgetown State Service Center.



New Castle County Workshop Overview

	<p>Saturday, March 1 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Foster Parent Module I: The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children at Risk (Part 1) Aldersgate Church 2313 Concord Pike (RT 202) Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Saturday, March 1 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sexual Abuse 101 (Part 1) Aldersgate Church 2313 Concord Pike (RT 202) Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Saturday, March 1 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Crisis Intervention Aldersgate Church 2313 Concord Pike (RT 202) Wilmington, DE</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 4 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Foster Parent Grief and Loss Delaware Hospice Inc. University Plaza 263 Chapman Rd. Newark, DE (large conference room)</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 5 6 - 9:00 p.m. Becoming a Love and Logic Parent (Part 1) Community Service Building 100 W. 10th Street Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 11 7 - 8 p.m. You're Stronger Than You Know John H. Ammon Medical Center 4755 Ogletown Stanton Road Newark, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 18 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. CASA Training Limestone Presbyterian Church 3201 Limestone Road Wilmington, DE</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 19 6 - 9 p.m. Becoming a Love and Logic Parent (Part 2) Community Service Building 100 W. 10th Street Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 26 6 - 9 p.m. Becoming a Love and Logic Parent (Part 3) Community Service Building 100 W. 10th Street Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Saturday, March 29 10 - 11 a.m. Getting to Know the Library Wilmington Public Library 10 E.10th Street Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 2 6 - 9 p.m. Becoming a Love and Logic Parent (Part 4) Community Service Building 100 W. 10th Street Wilmington, DE</p>
<p>Saturday, April 5 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Foster Parent Module I: The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children at Risk (Part 2) Aldersgate Church 2313 Concord Pike (RT 202) Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Saturday, April 5 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sexual Abuse: How We Can Help Our Children (Part 2) Aldersgate Church 2313 Concord Pike (RT 202) Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Saturday, April 5 9 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Foster Parent College Aldersgate Church 2313 Concord Pike (RT 202) Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 16 6 - 8 p.m. Independent Living: What to do to Prepare for Exit NET 287 Christiana Road New Castle, DE</p>

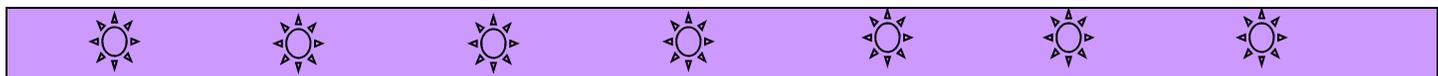


New Castle County Workshops (Con't)

<p>Thursday, May 22 6 - 7:30 p.m. Obesity and Intellectual Disabilities A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children 1600 Rockland Road 3rd Floor, Classroom 2 Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 28 6 - 9 p.m. What Foster Parents Need to Know About Psychotropic Medications Community Service Building 100 W. 10th Street Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 3 6 - 7:30 p.m. Universal Precautions Community Service Building 100 W. 10th Street Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 9 6 - 8 p.m. Social Skills/ Developing & Teaching NET 287 Christiana Road New Castle, DE</p>
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Kent County Workshop Overview

<p>Tuesday, February 19 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Birth Families Training Del Tech Terry Campus 100 Campus Drive Dover, DE</p>	<p>Thursday, February 28 6 - 8 p.m. Helping Students Succeed Academically Dover High School 1 Patrick Lynn Drive Dover, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 11 6 - 8 p.m. Army Recruitment Army Reserve Center Dover, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 8 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Children's Grief and Loss Delaware Hospice Inc. Barrett Building 821 Silver Lake Blvd. Dover, DE (Large training room)</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 22 6 - 9 p.m. First Aid Del Tech Terry Campus Corporate Training Center 100 Campus Drive Dover, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 29 6 - 9 p.m. CPR Del Tech Terry Campus Corporate Training Center 100 Campus Drive Dover, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 6 6 - 9 p.m. Working with Birth Families (Part 1) Del Tech Terry Campus 100 Campus Drive Dover, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 13 6 - 9 p.m. Working with Birth Families (Part 2) Del Tech Terry Campus 100 Campus Drive Dover, DE</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 14 6 - 9 p.m. "It's All About Me" - Female Adolescent Development Del Tech Terry Campus 100 Campus Drive Dover, DE Call: (302) 657-0909 to register</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 20 6 - 9 p.m. Budgeting Basics Delaware Money School Barrett Building 821 Silver Lake Blvd. Dover, DE (Large conference room)</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 10 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Teens and Anger Management Del Tech Terry Campus 100 Campus Drive Dover, DE</p>	



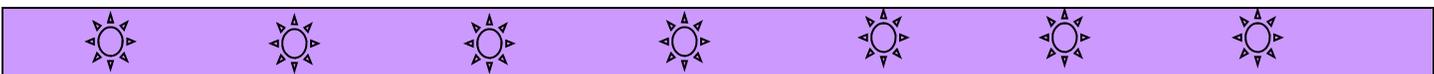
Sussex County Workshop Overview

<p>Thursday, March 6 6 - 7 p.m. Army National Guard 109 W. Pine Street Georgetown, DE</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 18 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Working as a Member of the Professional Team Sussex Technical School 17137 County Seat Hwy Georgetown, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 16 6 - 9 p.m. What Foster Parents Need to Know About Psychotropic Medications Del Tech Owens Campus Route 18 Georgetown, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 23 6 - 9 p.m. Depression & Suicide in Adolescent Girls Del Tech Owens Campus Route 18 Georgetown, DE Call:(302) 657-0909 to register</p>
<p>Thursday, May 8 6 - 8 p.m. Fire Safety Delaware Fire School Stockley Center 26351 Patriots Way Georgetown, DE (C-2 Building sign says Campbell 2, Classroom A)</p>	<p>Saturday, May 31 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Working with Birth Families Eagles Nest Fellowship Church 26633 Zion Church Road. Milton, DE</p>	<p>Saturday, May 31 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Crisis Intervention Eagles Nest Fellowship Church 26633 Zion Church Road. Milton, DE</p>	<p>Saturday, May 31 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Brain Development and Trauma Eagles Nest Fellowship Church 26633 Zion Church Road. Milton, DE</p>
<p>Saturday, May 31 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m. Foster Parent College Eagles Nest Fellowship Church 26633 Zion Church Road. Milton, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 4 6 - 7:30 p.m. Young Women's Health Beebe Medical Center 424 Savannah Road Lewes, DE</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 11 6 - 9 p.m. "It's All About Me" Female Adolescent Development Del Tech Owens Campus Route 18, Georgetown, DE Call:(302) 657-0909 to register</p>	



*You Teach Best
What you Most
Need to Learn*

Richard Bach



Training Descriptions Listed Alphabetically

Army National Guard (1 hour) - Supplemental Training

Basic recruitment will be explained. The many benefits of enlisting in the armed forces will be described including payment, education, housing service, experience and more. *Kids are welcome to come. *Facilitator: Sgt John Beers, Army National Guard.*

Army Recruitment (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

This session will highlight the many tangible benefits of enlisting in the US Army, including room and board, meal plan, physical fitness, and a steady paycheck. The facilitator will explain some of the other things that a soldier can expect, such as life-long friendships, increased understand of responsibility, sense of accomplishment, pride in your country, and much more. *Facilitator: Sgt 1st Class John Barr, United States Army.*

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent (12 Hours) - Level 2

Would you like to have more fun parenting? Would you like to have fewer power struggles with your children? Learn the Love and Logic way to parent. This program was developed by Foster Cline M.D an internationally renowned child psychiatrist and the father of birth children, an adopted child and several foster children. The principles you will learn in this class will help you raise foster children who are self-confident, motivated and ready for the real world. Your foster children will win because they'll learn to solve their own problems while gaining the confidence they need to meet life's challenges. And you'll win because you'll establish healthy control-without anger, threats, nagging or exhausting power struggles. *Facilitator: Kellie Turner, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.*

Birth Family Training (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Foster parents will review the process of grief and how their foster children deal with the loss of their birth family while they are in foster care. The goals of this training include realizing the importance of maintaining family connections and preparing children for visitation with their parents. Loyalty conflicts and helping children manage attachment will also be reviewed in large and small group formats. *Facilitator: Cindy Knapp, M.A. Children's Choice.*

Brain Development and Trauma (6 hours) - Supplemental Training

Brain development researchers have made leaps and bounds during the past ten years in helping us understand how the brain develops and the impact that childhood experiences have on development. This workshop will give participants a basic understanding of brain development and how adults can help a child's brain develop in a way that allows the child to reach his or her full potential. Additionally, foster parents will learn about the devastating impact severe or chronic trauma has on the brain. *Facilitator: To Be Announced.*

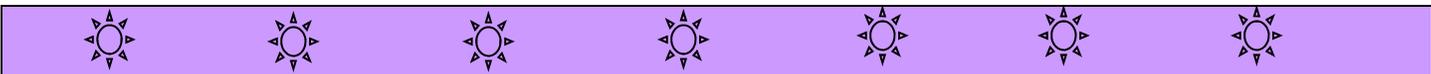
Budgeting Basics (3 hours) - Supplemental Training

This workshop will teach foster parents how to make their budgets fit their lifestyles, what the characteristics of a good budget is as well as ways to manage money and save money. *Facilitator: Alisha Adams, Delaware Money School.*

CASA Training (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program provides trained volunteers to represent foster children at their court proceedings. Foster parents will learn the specific functions of the CASA worker and how they can work together as members of the professional team. *Facilitator: CASA staff to be announced.*

Key:  Meets GTF training requirement  Refreshments provided  Childcare provided



Training Descriptions (cont.)

Children's Grief and Loss (1 1/2 hours) - Supplemental Training

When children are separated from their families they lose all the things that they are comfortable with including their house, toys, friends, school, parents and siblings. This loss is often accompanied with grief, manifesting itself in many different ways. This training will cover the process in which children cope with grief and provide helpful suggestions for walking a child through their hurt. *Facilitator: Allison Krauss-Randall, LCSW, Delaware Hospice Inc.*

Crisis Intervention (6 hours) - Level 5

Foster parents working with children, youth and families must understand the importance of being safe while ensuring the safety of others. Many harmful incidents can be avoided if individuals recognize and respond appropriately to potentially volatile situations. Through participation in this workshop, foster parents will understand the inter-relationships between themselves and others and learn strategies to de-escalate crisis situations. *Facilitator: To Be Announced.*

CPR Certification (3 hours) - Level 2

If a child went into cardiac arrest in your home would you know how to perform life-saving CPR, which can double a victim's chance of survival? Surprisingly, the vast majority of Americans don't. Foster parents will learn how to perform this important lifesaving technique. *Facilitator: Sharper Training & Consultation.*

Depression & Suicide in Adolescent Girls (3 Hours) - Level 4

This presentation will provide a profile of depression and girls at risk of suicide. We will discuss symptoms of depression, warning signs for increased risk of suicide and ways foster parents can help ensure treatment for girls. The format will include lecture and group discussion; please share your experience—you are the ones living with these girls! *Facilitator: Allison L. Cassidy, LCSW, Coordinator, Delaware Girls Initiative.*

First Aid (3 hours) - Level 2

Participants will learn how to manage the illnesses and injuries of adults and children while waiting for emergency professionals to arrive. Topics include: First Aid Basics, Medical Emergencies, Injury Emergencies and Environmental Emergencies. *Facilitator: Sharper Training & Consultation.*

Fire Safety in the Home (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Fire safety is important for the entire family. The Fire School will cover emergency plans, evacuation routes, fire hazards and the importance of detectors. *Facilitator: Dottie Barber.*

Foster Parent College DVD's (3 hours) - Supplemental Training

The Foster Parent College also offers DVD's of some of their courses which explore specific behavior problems, emotional disorders, and practical parenting strategies. Videos will be shown in sets of three, the first set consist of Wetting and Soiling, Sleep Problems and Eating Disorders. The second set consist of Lying, Anger Outbursts and Fire-setting. Foster parents may register for one set of three videos or both sets.

Key:  Meets GTF training requirement  Refreshments provided  Childcare provided



Training Descriptions (cont.)

Foster Parent Grief and Loss (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Foster children come and go from homes and they leave foster parents with a sense of loss. Although these children may only be in care for a short amount of time, they undoubtedly make an impact on the lives of those that were caring for them. Grief is a normal reaction after a child has left, and the process can be painful. This training session will walk through the steps of emotion so many foster parents are left with after a child leaves. *Facilitator: Allison Krauss-Randall, LCSW Delaware Hospice Inc.*

Foster Pride Module 1: The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children at Risk (12 hours)

Level 1 – All foster parents are required to complete this module

One of the biggest challenges foster parents face is learning how to help badly abused and neglected children re-build their shattered self-esteem. Foster parents will learn to assess the self-concept of children who have been abused, neglected and separated from their families. Participants will become aware of the connection between self-esteem and behavior and will practice communication skills that nurture children and promote healing and growth. *Facilitator: Karen DeRasmo, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.*

Getting to Know the Library (1 hour) - Supplemental Training

Please join us for a tour at the Wilmington Public Library to learn about our services and resources. The Library can offer you and your family a place to come and relax together - pick up some books to read, surf the Internet, or partake in programs like "story hour." We also offer services to help you find information on topics of concern, parenting books or books to help with school projects. Children are welcome. *Facilitators: Reference Librarians, Wilmington Public Library.*

Helping Students Succeed Academically (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Staff from Dover High School will discuss a variety of topics related to teens as a way to equip foster parents to help their child succeed academically and socially while in school. Discussion points will include resources available, helpful study hints, pressures of high school, ways to encourage your student and more. This session will be interactive and will ultimately help foster parents help the child in their life. *Facilitator: Michael Rezac, Dover High School.*

"It's All About Me"- Female Adolescent Development (3 hours) - Supplemental Training

This workshop will provide a broad based overview of female adolescent development through group discussion and hands-on activities. Participants should come with an open mind and be willing to explore the many changes adolescents experience during this transitional time in their lives. *Facilitator: Allison L. Cassidy, LCSW Coordinator, Delaware Girls Initiative.*

Independent Living (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Independent living services are provided to young people to assist them as they transition to adulthood. Come and learn how to provide opportunities that will enable young adults to become independent. *Facilitator: Patty May, NET (Anyone 1/2 hr late or more late will get half credit)*

Obesity and Intellectual Disabilities (1 1/2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Obesity is a national epidemic. Children and adults with disabilities have even higher rates of overweight and obesity than the general population. Obesity in childhood is also associated with medical conditions such as sleep apnea, type 2 diabetes, liver disease, and hypertension. We will be discussing nutrition and activity solutions that families and children can use to manage weight, prevent obesity related disease and achieve healthy nutrition and activity. *Facilitator: Dr. Sandra Hassink, FAAP Director, Weight Management Clinic.*

Key:  Meets GTF training requirement  Refreshments provided  Childcare provided



Training Descriptions (cont.)

Sexual Abuse 101: Part 1 (6 hours) - Level 3 (Sat Only)

There are 60 million people in this country who have been victims of sexual abuse. This means it is very likely that a foster parent will provide care to a child who has been a victim of sexual abuse. This interactive workshop will focus on how sexual abuse affects children across development. It will include a brief introduction to sexual abuse which will be comprised of definitions, impact and the dynamics of sexual abuse. *Facilitator: Kellie Turner, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.*

Sexual Abuse: How We Can Help Our Children Part 2 (6 Hours) - Level 3 (Sat Only)

There are 60 million people in this country who have been victims of sexual abuse. This means it is very likely that a foster parent will provide care to a child who has been a victim of sexual abuse. This interactive workshop will focus on how sexual abuse affects children across development. This workshop will allow foster parents to practice techniques and discuss any current concerns they have about a child in their care or behaviors they are facing. *Facilitator: Kellie Turner, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.*

Social Skill/Developing & Teaching (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Social skills are the foundation for success in life. Most children acquire basic social skills such as taking turns or initiating conversation easily. While most children learn these basic skills simply by exposure to social situations, some children need to be taught these skills explicitly. *Facilitator: Patty May, NET (Anyone 1/2 hr or more late will get half credit).*

Teens and Anger Management (3 hours) - Supplemental Training

The role of the foster parent caring for teens who have been severely abused, neglected or rejected by their families is a very challenging one. The workshop will cover common stressors for teens, teen violence, conflict resolution, communication skills and relationship issues. *Facilitator: Sherry Green, MSW, Executive Director of Mother Care Inc.*

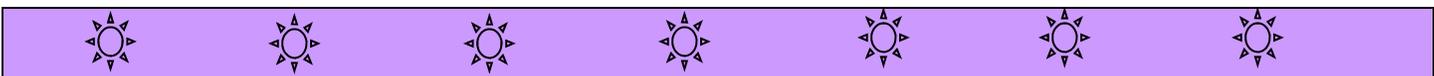
Universal Precautions (1 1/2 hour) - Level 3

Come learn simple ways to keep your home healthier while also learning how to handle situations that could be potentially risky to you or your family's health. HIV and Hepatitis B and C are blood transmitted diseases that foster parents knowingly or unknowingly face while caring for children in their home. Implementation of standard precautions in the home will reduce the risks of these blood-born pathogens contaminating your home. *Facilitator: Kellie Turner, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.*

What Foster Parents Need to Know About Psychotropic Medications (3 hours) - Level 2

Many children in foster care take medications to moderate their behavior or their mood so they can function in a family or school setting. Foster parents will have an opportunity to find answers to frequently asked questions such as: When should a child be evaluated for medications? What information do foster parents need to help the physician evaluating a child for medications? What medications are prescribed for children and what do these medications do? What are the benefits and risks? What are the side effects? What observations and information from the foster parent helps a physician monitor a child on medications? *Facilitator: Craig Strickland, PH.D, Program Director at the Behavioral Health Training & Education Network.*

Key:  Meets GTF training requirement  Refreshments provided  Childcare provided



Training Descriptions (cont.)

Working As A Professional Team Member (2 hours) - Supplemental Training

This training will provide foster parents with information about the importance of teamwork and will help them develop teamwork skills. The role, rights and responsibilities of the foster parents in the child welfare system will be reviewed. Effective communication with other members of the child welfare team will be enhanced through small group activities. Team decision making will also be discussed with regards to permanency planning for children in foster care.

Facilitator: CASA staff to be announced.

Working with Birth Families (6 hours) - Level 2

It is not easy for foster parents to work with birth parents who have abused and neglected their children or who continue to disappoint their children. But a child's bond with his/her parent is powerful and, no matter what happened, the child often still wants to be connected in some way with his/her biological family. Who are these birth parents anyway? Come learn how foster parents can share the parenting role with birth parents in a way that holds the best promise for a child today and tomorrow. Facilitators: Karen DeRasmo, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.

You're Stronger Than You Know (1 hour) - Supplemental Training

This workshop will discuss a variety of topics, including: the concept of "preconception health" and how it's being used to reduce Delaware's infant mortality; the state of women's health in Delaware; simple steps you can take to improve your own health and your family; how you can become an advocate for women's health in your own family and in your own community; what "taking care of your health" really means; and a discussion about giving yourself the care that you deserve. Facilitator: Dr. Ehrenthal, Christiana Hospital.

Young Women's Health (1 1/2 hours) - Supplemental Training

Young women today face a variety of health issues and are unaware of the importance of making proper life choices. Decisions that women make today will affect them for years to come, so it is important that they understand the consequences of the choices with which they are presented. The Community Educator from the BeBee Medical Center will present myths, problems, suggestions and advice on many of today's biggest health issues for today's young women. Facilitator: Peggy Deihl, Community Educator.

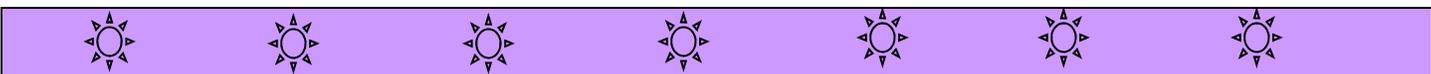
Key:  Meets GTF training requirement  Refreshments provided  Childcare provided

CPR & First Aid: The First Defense

In life and death situations, every second counts. In those precious moments, it is everyone's responsibility to give the best care possible until trained medical professionals take over. That's why it is vital to have the proper first aid and CPR training. Since the fall of 2006, DFS has been offering both certifications on the training calendar. This spring, First Aid/CPR trainings are being held on Saturdays. Lunch and daycare will be provided.

Although DFS no longer offers reimbursements for classes taken in the community, foster parents may go to the web-site of the contractor at www.sharpertraining.net, click on "CPR schedule" and look for the class "Pediatric CPR/First Aid." They may also call 302-379-3072 to find a time, date and location that is more convenient for them.

Please take advantage of this new offering. Someone who is trained is someone who is prepared for an emergency!



Promoting Safe & Stable Families

Calling All Foster Parents

Are you in need of a strength-based, family support program that can assist you with interventions and strategies in your role as a foster parent?

If your answer is yes, then the Promoting Safe & Stable Families Program (PSSF) is for you!

The PSSF Program is a Family Support & Family Preservation Program for parents, caregivers & foster parents who have children under the age of 18.

Through a strength-based, family consultation process, families are able to identify and address areas of concern or possible stressors, mobilize their network of supports, develop action plans and goals, gain a better understanding of parent/child relationships and understand the causes of behaviors.

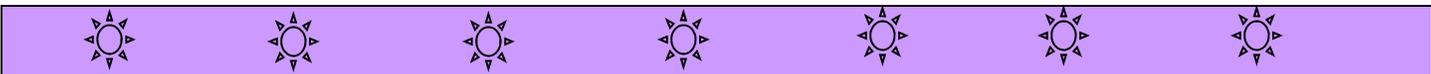
All PSSF services are provided free of charge to participating families. Families who actively participate in the PSSF program can expect to:

- Reduce their stress level
- Improve parent/child relationships
- Reduce family stress & isolation
- Increase their network of supports
- Increase their knowledge of community resources
- Learn a different way to plan



Contact our referral number for service. If you reside in
 New Castle County – (302)892-4509 – Ms. Carmella Johnson-Giddens
 Kent or Sussex County – (302)739-8367 – Ms. Janette Medina

Program Administrator – Ms. Vickie Artis – (302)892-4502



NEW!

Foster Parent College

DVD's

In past newsletters DFS introduced the FosterParentCollege.com online training for foster and adoptive parents. Using the World Wide Web, training is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Foster Parent College also offers DVD's of some of their courses, which explore specific behavior problems, emotional disorders, and practical parenting strategies. These powerful messages are presented through dramatic vignettes, interviews with parents, and instruction from nationally-known child welfare experts such as Dr. Richard Delaney. DFS has purchased six of the DVD's, which range in length from 30 – 45 minutes. After each DVD, a brief questionnaire is provided. This increases the total running time for each DVD to one hour.

The six DVD's purchased by DFS are:

[Wetting and Soiling](#)



Wetting as an emotional outlet, wetting as a self-defense, classic daytime or nighttime wetting, soiling and smearing feces, constipation and withholding stools are discussed.

[Sleep Problems](#)



Viewers will learn about roaming, nightmares and night terrors, sleeping alone, and depression.

[Eating Disorders](#)



Causes of and strategies for dealing with stealing and hoarding food, gorging, refusing certain foods, and anorexia are examined.

[Lying](#)



Common behaviors addressed in this DVD include getting out of trouble, gaining attention, pathological, and getting others in trouble.

[Anger Outbursts](#)



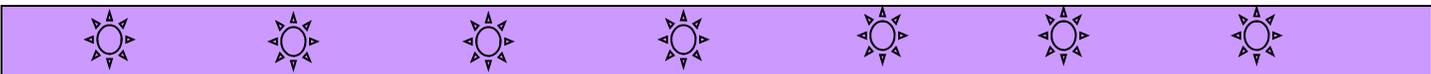
This DVD covers temper tantrums, assaultive behavior towards other children, rage towards the mother, and erratic or unpredictable anger.

[Fire-setting](#)



Fire-setting behaviors such as silent but deadly, impulsive, disturbed, accidental, and curious are examined.

Foster parents will receive supplemental training hours for viewing the DVD's and responding to the questionnaire. Please see training calendar for viewing times and locations.



Registration Information for Trainings

- ◆ REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES. Please call Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, our foster parent training contractor at 425-7490 (New Castle) or 1-866-925-7223 (Kent & Sussex) to register. The phones in Kent and Sussex offices will often have a recording on which you may leave your registration information.
- ◆ You will receive a postcard confirming your registration.
- ◆ Childcare and lunch are offered at Saturday trainings. Please pre-register the children you will be bringing because space is limited to the first 50 children registered.
- ◆ Please do not bring children to a class when childcare is not offered. The content of the classes is not appropriate for children and children cannot be left unsupervised in another room.

To Register with The Delaware Girls Initiative

The Delaware Girls Initiative is an innovative partnership between local, state and federal government, the faith-based community, universities, foundations, corporations and nonprofit organizations to address the gender specific needs of girls who are at risk. The initiative is a comprehensive collaboration charged with better understanding and effectively addressing the issues faced by girls.

- ◆ Contact Carolyn Petrak, DGI Program Assistant by email at cpetrak@dcjustice.org or by telephone at (302) 657-0909 to reserve a space.
- ◆ Please include your name, telephone, e-mail address and organization when you register.
- ◆ Registration closes three weeks prior to each scheduled workshop.
- ◆ Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible for any workshops.
- ◆ If workshops fill they will retain a waiting list.
- ◆ If you are unable to attend a workshop you have already registered for, please contact Carolyn Petrak so they can make your spot available to someone else.

Don't Forget to Register !!



Training Requirements of Delaware Foster Care Model

The Delaware Foster Care Model was developed by the Foster Care Task Force appointed by Governor Minner in January 2001. One of the major recommendations of the Task Force was that foster care board payments be linked to the skills, training and services provided by a foster parent rather than paying according to the level of care of the child. The hope is that the child can be matched with the foster parent who has the skills, training and ability to provide the child with services he/she needs. DFS has been transitioning to the Model since its inception.

The Delaware Foster Care Model sets out training requirements (at the present time for DFS foster parents only) for each level of the model:

Basic Level 1:	Foster PRIDE pre-service training	27 hours
	Module 1: Meeting the Developmental needs of Children at Risk	12 hours
	First Aid & CPR Certifications	
	Required Supplemental training per year	5 hours
Moderate Level 2:	All Requirements for Level 1 plus	
	Parenting With Love and Logic	12 hours
	Working with Birth Parents	6 hours
	Educational Surrogate Parent Training	2 hours
	What Foster Parents Need to Know about Psychotropic Medication	3 hours
	Specialized Training as Needed	
Required Supplemental training per year	12 hours	
Intensive Level 3:	All Requirements for Level 1 and 2 plus	
	Sexual Abuse: How it Affects Our Children and How We Can Help	6 hours
	Specialized Training as Needed	
	Required Supplemental training per year	15 hours
Intensive Level 4:	All Requirements for Level 1, 2 and 3 plus	
	Depression in Children and Adolescents: From Sadness to Suicide Warnings	6 hours
	(or)	
	Mental Health in Children -Part 2	6 hours
	Specialized Training as Needed	
Required Supplemental training per year	20 hours	
Intensive Level 5:	All Requirements for Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 plus	
	Crisis Intervention	6 hours
	Specialized Training as Needed	
	Required Supplemental training per year	20 hours

If you have questions about your current GTF (Governor's Task Force) level or how the GTF leveling system works, please contact your coordinator.





"Think of the Child First"

"Official Business, Penalty for Private Use \$300"

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Delaware Youth and Family Center
Division of Family Services*

The Department of Services
for Children,
Youth and Their Families

FOSTER FAMILY
NETWORK NEWS

Spring 2008

Cari DeSantis, Secretary
Department of Services for Children
Youth and Their Families

Carlyse A. Giddins, Director
Division of Family Services

John Bates
Foster Care Program Manager

(302) 633-2665

<http://www.kids.delaware.gov>