Normalcy for Children and Youth in Foster Care; Implementing Missouri HB 1877 & PL 113-183

Children and youth in care have the fundamental right to be safe and well cared for, without unnecessary barriers or trade-offs in other aspects of wellbeing. All children and youth are encouraged to participate in age or developmentally appropriate activities based on their interests and as supported by their primary caregiver/resource parent. Resource parents are the primary decision makers and are responsible for acting as reasonable and prudent parents, with assistance and advice from professionals and birth parents as appropriate. Developing assets in the Five Domains of Wellbeing, removing barriers to normalcy, and dramatically expanding opportunities for healthy child and youth development is everyone’s responsibility. For more information, visit http://dss.mo.gov/cd/info/forms/pdf/normalcy-tip-sheet.pdf.

ReSource: Open Now

ReSource offers free clothing for kids ages 0-12. The store is reserved exclusively for foster/adoptive families.

**Hours:** Wednesdays from 9am-1pm and Saturdays from 10am-1pm.*

*Appointments outside of operating hours can be arranged by contacting Katie Mohr, Director of ReSource, at 314.304.3906 or katiemohr@foster-adopt.org.

**Location:** It is located at 1750 S. Brentwood Blvd, Suite 130.

Please come with confirmation of your status as a foster/adoptive parent.

Don’t Miss This Training Extravaganza!

A child’s journey through foster care can sever attachments again and again. When relationships are not stable, children often learn that they cannot trust others. According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, “Children who do not have healthy attachments have been shown to be more vulnerable to stress. They have trouble controlling and expressing emotions, and may react violently or inappropriately to situations.” Parenting a child with attachment challenges can be very difficult.

The Association for Training on Trauma and Attachment in Children (ATTACh) provides training to parents and professionals to promote healthy attachment and heal trauma. This coalition of professionals and families is dedicated to helping those with attachment difficulties by sharing knowledge, talents, and resources. St. Louis area parents and professionals have an amazing opportunity to receive training from ATTACh Executive Director, Mary McGowan. This training will leave participants with a deeper understanding of attachment and parenting tools for helping children heal. Don’t miss this opportunity! Registration information is on page 2.

Little Wishes Program

Little Wishes allow children in foster care to have childhood experiences they may not otherwise be able to enjoy. To be eligible, children must be at least 5 years old and currently in foster care. For more information, please go to www.foster-adopt.org and click on “Current Parents & Professionals” and “Little Wishes/Birthday Buddies.” Alternatively, contact Shannon Nichols, Director of Donor Relations, at 314.367.8373.
Training Extravaganza: Saturday, March 25th

Thanks to a grant from St. Louis Regional System of Care and the Area Resources Community and Human Services and the United Way of Greater St. Louis, the Coalition will host a Training Extravaganza on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Receive 7.5 in-service training hours in one day at this all-day workshop for foster/adoptive/relative caregivers.

Extravaganza Agenda: Hope for Healing: Attachment Training for Foster & Adoptive Parents
Participants will learn about the following:
Attachment and attachment theory; Attachment across generations; The relevance of grief in the lives of those affected by trauma and loss; Attachment-focused parenting: Supporting your child in the school system.
Speaker: Mary M. McCooen, the Executive Director of ATACH, is an adoptive parent of five and an experienced trainer who consults across the country and worldwide. Mary holds a National Certificate in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Foster Care.

Kids Curriculum:
Children will do fun indoor and outdoor activities with volunteer groups during the day, watch an age-appropriate movie, and receive a “dream box” full of school supplies, clothing, toys and other goodies from DaVita volunteers collaborating with Chase What Matters.

Childcare Lottery: Space is limited to 100 children. Registration forms must be received by March 3rd to be included in the childcare lottery. All requests for childcare received by March 3rd will be placed into the same lottery pool. Registration forms will be randomly drawn until the 100 childcare slots are filled. If childcare is full, adults are still welcome to attend the workshops and receive 7.5 training hours. Space is limited to 175 adults.

REGISTRATION CLOSES MARCH 10, 2017. NO TELEPHONE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED. YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.FOSTER-ADOPT.ORG/TRAINEX

Registration Form: Training Extravaganza
Please Print Clearly

Parent / Caregiver Name(s) ____________________________________________

House Number & Street: __________________________ City, State, Zip Code: ________________

Home Phone: __________________________ Cell Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

List Name, Age, & Gender of Children You Wish to be Included in Childcare Lottery

1. (child’s name)                          (age)                  (gender)

2. (child’s name)                          (age)                  (gender)

3. (child’s name)                          (age)                  (gender)

4. (child’s name)                          (age)                  (gender)

5. (child’s name)                          (age)                  (gender)

☐ Yes, I’m still able to attend if childcare is unavailable. License Type: ☐ Foster ☐ Adopt ☐ Guardianship

Send To: Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, ATTN: Registrations, 1700 S. Brentwood Blvd., Suite 210, St. Louis, MO 63144, or fax to 314.241.0715. Alternatively, register online at www.foster-adopt.org/trainex

Meet Christopher

Ten year old Christopher enjoys cuddle time and being close to those he cares about. Christopher is a sweet boy with an easy-going and affectionate nature. He gives hugs, laughs, and giggles easily. Christopher likes to listen to upbeat music and gets a thrill out of riding in the car. He does great on road trips! Christopher loves school and is ready and waiting at the door to leave in the morning.

Christopher does have some special needs, but he has a world of potential. He meets small goals every day. He is stimulated by lights and by his sense of touch. With the assistance of his hearing aids he is learning small words and basic sign language, and is also able to express his needs in other ways. Christopher has a connection with his older brother and younger sister that is an important relationship to continue.

For more information, please contact Heather Roberts, Extreme Recruiter at 314.367.8373 or heatherroberts@foster-adopt.org.

Meet Alluriana

Alluriana is an eclectic, creative and wise 10 year old who has the makings of a great leader. She is eager to be adopted by a family who will love her unconditionally. Alluriana enjoys reading adventurous books for hours, learning interesting facts about American history, and visiting new sites within her city. Alluriana also loves animals and states that she does not have a preference, but she would like to have a pet in her forever home.

Alluriana enjoys doing crafts and listening to Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber, and One Direction when she does not have homework.

Alluriana works very hard to establish genuine and healthy relationships with her friends. Alluriana currently receives weekly therapy. In order for her to be successful, this resource will need to continue.

For more information on Alluriana, please contact Angela Chewe, Extreme Recruiter at 314.367.8373 or angeliacewe@foster-adopt.org.