

Keeping In Touch

September is... National Childhood Injury Prevention Month

Protect the Ones You Love

More than 9 million children between birth and age 19 are seen for injuries each year in U.S. emergency departments, and injuries are the leading cause of death among children in this age group.

Home Safety Month is an ideal time to learn about the top causes of child injury and the steps you



can take to prevent them.

Burns

- Install and maintain smoke alarms in your home.
- Develop and practice a family fire escape plan.
- Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.
- Use safe cooking practices, such as never leaving food unattended on the stove.

sDrownings

- Install a four-sided isolation fence, with self-closing and self-latching gates, around



backyard swimming pools.

- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and get recertified every two years.
- Supervise young children at all times around bathtubs, swimming pools, and natural bodies of water.



Falls

- Use playground equipment that is properly designed and maintained, and that has a soft landing surface material below. Use home safety devices, such as guards on windows

that are located above ground-level, stair gates, and guard rails. Supervise young children at all times around fall hazards, like stairs and playground equipment.



Poisonings

- Store medicines and other toxic products such as cleaning solutions in locked or childproof cabinets.

Put the poison control number, 1-800-222-1222, on or near every home telephone.

Sam's Corner . . .

Welcome to Casa de los Niños Foster Care Program's new and improved website and on-line newsletter. Here you will be able to find information on upcoming trainings for foster families. You will find the latest information about what is happening in the Casa de los Niños Foster Care Program,

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Casa de los Niños Foster Care Program

Special points of interest:

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Welcome New Foster Families!

- Jaime
- Melissa
- Robin
- Glen
- John
- Marcia

as well as what is happening at the State level that affects foster care. We will be hosting articles that are meant to enhance your time with your children and family, as well as articles to refresh your memory about Article 58 Rules and Regulations. We welcome any article written by foster parents for other foster parents (although we do reserve the right for final editing prior to posting).

Changes within the Casa de los Niños Foster Care Program since our last newsletter was sent out - Starting at the State level, DES has historically divided the state into 6 Districts through which they provided services, such as foster care. Pima County has been District 2 while Pinal and Gila Counties have been combined to be District 5. As of July 1, 2010, DES has realigned the state into only 5 Districts (now called Regions) in an effort to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Pima County remains Region 2. However, Pinal County has joined the Eastern portion of Maricopa County to establish the new Region 1 and Gila County has joined Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties to become the new Region 5. These changes have just been implemented since July, 2010. All of the ramifications of this are still not known. We will keep you updated as we know more.

One of the things that we do know is that there are approximately 23 foster care licensing agencies already serving Maricopa County. As a comparison, there have been 5

foster care licensing agencies serving Pinal and Gila Counties. Due to these changes, Casa de los Niños has made the decision that we will no longer be providing Foster Care services in Pinal County. We will be officially closing our Foster Care operations in Pinal County at the end of this contract year which is September 30, 2010. Casa de los Niños Foster Families in Pinal County have been asked to select another of the foster care licensing agencies serving the area in order to transfer their license. We will most certainly miss all of our wonderful foster homes we have worked with over the past 4 years in Pinal County and wish all of them the best of luck as they continue to provide superior care for the vulnerable children in the foster care system. We also want to wish Gina Saucedo and Sandra Schenkenberger the best of luck as they move on as well.

There have also been some big changes within Casa de los Niños' Tucson Foster Care Office. Cara Singer (the supervisor in our Tucson office) has accepted a position as an Adult Probation Officer. We wish her the best of luck in her new adventure. With Cara's departure, and anticipating our program changes at the end of September, the Tucson Supervisor position has been filled as a Lead Foster Family

Support Specialist and we are very pleased to have been able to promote JoAnne Stephens into that position. Additionally, many of you may also be aware that our Tucson Trainer/Recruiter Annie Pratt-Ferguson left a few months ago in order to pursue a Masters Degree in Social Work. Upon Annie's departure Brooke Brunner accepted the position of Trainer/Recruiter. These changes left us with 2 openings for Foster Family Support Specialists. We are very pleased to welcome Claudia Martinez and Christina Saunders to our team as our newest Foster Family Support Specialists. Also joining our foster care family is our new Office Manager, Kathy McDaniel. When you call our office please take a moment to welcome her. We hope you enjoy our new Foster Care website and online newsletter. We would love your feedback as we continue to work to improve our program for our Fabulous Foster Parents. Have a great month and thank you for all you do for Arizona's most vulnerable youth.

Sam

"Due to these changes, Casa de los Niños has made the decision that we will no longer be providing Foster Care services in Pinal County."

Opening your Home to Older Children



In Arizona, children leave the foster care system when they turn 18. While there are programs in place to assist in this transition, young adults in this situation enter the world without the benefit of having supportive parents. As adolescence in our society seems to grow longer and longer, creeping into our children's twenties, it is now more important

than ever to find homes for older children who run the risk of 'aging – out' of the system.

For those of you who already have children in their twenties, you know that your role as parents continues despite the fact that your children are now supposedly legally independent adults! Children who are approaching legal adulthood without yet having

found adoptive parents often ask questions like these:

Who will I call when I move into my first apartment and I'm scared in the middle of the night?

If I graduate from college, who will come to my ceremony and throw a party for me afterwards?

If I am in an accident, who will take care of me afterwards? Who will come pick me up and care for me afterwards?

What happens when I am short on money to pay my rent or utility bills?

How will I get

health insurance when my first job doesn't offer it and my pay isn't enough to afford it?

Who will be at my wedding?

Who will help console me when I'm fired from a job or going through a break-up?

If I mess up and end up in jail, who will bail me out and help me to get on track afterwards?

Who will give me parenting advice when I have children and be grandma or grandpa to my kids?

Who will love and believe in me no matter what?

While the thought of fostering and

potentially adopting a teen can be concerning for some foster parents, there are also many benefits. Most teenagers have already developed a sense of who they are and what they want in life. As a potential foster parent to a teen, you can quickly develop an idea of whether a particular teen is a good match for your home or not. The teenager as well can also actively make this determination, which can lead to a better fit. When fostering and adopting little children, it is hard to know how the

children and your relationship to them will develop over the years. Every teen is different and not all teens have unusually difficult behavioral issues or needs. There may be a teenager out there who is a perfect fit for your home!

Many foster parents find the idea of fostering teens intimidating until they actually meet teens who are in need of homes. Talk to your licensing worker if you are interested in learning more about teens. In many cases, we can facilitate meetings between you and actual teens who are waiting for a home. People do not outgrow their need for a family. As a foster parent, you have the opportunity to form lifelong ties with exceptional kids who need your support.

Web Resources

www.coping.org

www.sohp.com

www.azdes.gov/az_adoption

<http://www.readyschool.org/>

<http://www.gettingschoolready.org/>

http://www.preventblindness.org/vlc/taking_care_child.htm

Helping Teens Make Good Choices

<http://www.pamf.org/teen/parents/emotions/choices.html>

<http://www.netwellness.org/healthtopics/substanceabuse/faq4.cfm>

<http://www.suite101.com/content/problem-solving-skills-for-teens-a19758>

Do you have a special story to tell or words of wisdom to share with other foster parents? We are looking for newsletter article submittals for future newsletters. Please submit your entry electronically to kathym@casadelosninos.org or mail to the

Foster Care Office at
40 N. Swan Rd, Ste 45
Tucson, AZ 85711

Visit us on the web at
Casadelosninos.org for
 more training opportunities

Casa de los Niños Foster
 Care Program

OLCR Update

Dear Families,

While fingerprint cards are not an exciting way to start a newsletter, they are an important part of being a foster or adoptive parent, so we wanted to take an opportunity to remind you of a few things about fingerprint cards.

Fingerprint cards expire after 6 years:

- There is no process to renew fingerprint cards. You simply have to get a new one.
- To get another card, ask your licensing worker for the fingerprinting packets, which include the necessary forms and information on fingerprinting locations.
- You need to get fingerprinted at least two months prior to your current card's expiration.
- Fingerprint cards are issued for a variety of reasons. For any new fingerprint cards for foster parents, OLCR will only accept Level One Clearance Cards. This means that you need to obtain your fingerprint card packet through us and not through another source (such as substitute teaching).
- If your fingerprint card expires and you have not been issued a new fingerprint card, your foster care license will be suspended.

All adult household members must have current fingerprint cards:

- Adults moving into the home must have a valid fingerprint clearance card upon moving into the home.
- This means that paperwork should be obtained and completed no less than 30 days prior to the adult moving into the home.
- Your licensing worker has the packets needed for the fingerprinting.
- If a new adult household member moves in without a valid fingerprint card, you may risk your foster care license being suspended.

Children that turn 18 while still living at home are included in this regulation and the state has NEW requirements:

- Members of the household that have recently turned or will soon be turning 18 years of age are considered adults and, therefore, MUST be fingerprinted 30 days prior to their 18th birthday.
- Your licensing worker has the packets needed for the fingerprinting.
- Juvenile Court records are now being given weight in fingerprint card review. This is a new

addition. It is important to let your licensing worker know if your teenage child has a Juvenile Court record as it may cause a delay in getting a fingerprint card.

- If you are in the renewal time period the child will be added as part of the renewal. If it is not in the renewal timeframe and amendment will be completed to indicate that the child is now an adult.
 - If the child in the home turns 18 and has not been fingerprinted, you may risk your foster care license being suspended on the day of the child's 18th birthday.
- Also, please note that children who turn 18 while still living at home will be required to complete all of the other requirements for adult household members. This includes the Criminal History Self-Disclosure, Physician's Statement, and CPS Background Check. There may also be additional interviewing by the licensing working that needs to be completed once a child turns 18 to complete the

amendment/renewal.

We understand that some of these requirements may seem new or different to what you had been accustomed to in the past, so please do not hesitate to contact your licensing worker with any questions.

Thank you for all you do to serve our kids and their families.

City: Tucson Tues., September 28, 2010 6:30 pm
Length: 2 hrs Cost: \$0
Challenging Behaviors: Where do We Begin?
Trainer: Marisa Joy Williams
Location: Young Explorers 6207 E. Bellevue St.
How to Register: Call: 1-866-9TRAIN9 or Email: projectme-too@blake.easterseals.com
Blake Foundation

Ciudad: Tucson 30 de septiembre, 2010 6:30 pm
 Duración: 2 hrs Costo: \$0
 "Yo Siento Lo Que Usted Está Sintiendo" Los Efectos

de la Traumatización Secundaria (Serie de Violencia Doméstica 5 de 5)
 Para poder apoyar a niños que han presenciado la violencia, las personas que cuidan de los niños necesitan sentirse apoyados

en su trabajo. Necesitan sentir que su seguridad física y emocional son importantes.

Entrenadores: Robyn & Ed Simental
 Locación: Easter Seals Blake Foundation

616 N. Country Club Rd.

Para Registrarse: Llame: 1-866-9TRAIN9 o Email:

projectme-too@blake.easterseals.com

Agencia: Easter Seals Blake Foundation



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 Tucson, AZ 85711

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Save the date
12/4/10 Foster Parent Holiday Potluck