



the foster NETWORK

June/July

Summer is Almost Here!

Foster VC Kids would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and fun summer! School's almost out and we want to help you find summer activities for your kiddos!

NEW Summer Camp Guide to help inform you of what's available in your community! You should have received this in the mail. If you didn't, it's available for download at www.fostervckids.org under the Resources tab. The Children's Services Auxiliary will be offering up to \$300 reimbursement per child for summer camp activities. New this year is a specialized camp scholarship opportunity of up to \$500 per child that is funded by the Change A Life Foundation.

This program will allow for you to enroll a child in a specialized camp. This may be a camp for children with medical needs, a science or other technology based camp, and therapeutic camps. Information about how to apply and request funding will be included in the summer camp guide.

Remember, these funds are reserved for children with open cases with Children & Family Services.

Save the Date: Children's Services Auxiliary Summer Picnic 2015

The Children's Services Auxiliary is once again hosting its annual Foster and Relative Caregiver Family BBQ! The BBQ will be held Saturday, July 11th from 11 am – 2pm at Freedom Park in Camarillo.

The Camarillo Kiwanis are generously doing the barbequing-families are asked to bring a side to share! Lunch will be served at 11:30. There will be raffles for the kiddos and grown-ups, arts and crafts, jolly jumpers and other family friendly activities!

Registration is required so don't forget to RSVP to Elisa Carreno at elisa.carreno@ventura.org or (805) 289-1926.

CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Retention, & Support Info Line	654-3220	General Info Emergency Response and Court Units	654-3444
RDS Manager	654-5594	General Info Ongoing Units	240-2700
Licensing	955-2274	General Info East County	955-2290
Relative Approval	654-3422	General Information Central Programs	654-3405
Placement Coordinators	654-3211, 654-3217 or 654-3216	Children's Services Auxiliary (CSA)	654-3245
Placement Vacancy Line	289-1900	CSA Reimbursements	289-1926
Adoptions	385-9158	Field Based Case Aids	654-3449 or 289-1989
Youth Services Division	385-9146	ILP Coordinators	385-9114 or 385-9143
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	981-5373	Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	654-5536		

Royal Family Kids Camp

Royal Family Kids Camp is a one week resident summer camp designed especially for court-dependent children, 7 to 11 years old at no cost.

The camping experience is geared for success, recognizing the needs to abused, neglected and abandoned children. The activities are non-competitive, non-threatening and fun!

Returning campers who have not turned 12 years old have first priority for the spaces. Registration will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Space is subject to availability. If you have a child who will be 7 to 11 years old at the time of camp that you would like to have this wonderful camp experience, please contact one of the registrars listed below.

Camp Sessions:

August 3rd - 7th

Sponsor: Ventura Missionary Church

Register: Lyz Klopman (805) 857-8985 email: lyzklopman@verizon.net

Location: To be determined

June 22rd - 26th

Sponsor: St. John's Lutheran Church of Oxnard

Register: Melanie Higashi (805) 797-3837

Location: To be determined

*** Transportation is Provided by the Sponsoring Church ***



Respite Care Program Updates

We know that caregivers need time to take a break and recharge their batteries! Beginning in July there will be a few changes to the program that will enable us to continue to meet the growing need for respite care. **Please note: Availability is subject to change based upon our funding limitations during the fiscal year.**

Basic Eligibility:

County licensed foster parents, relative caregivers, and non-related extended family members of children ages 0-12 are automatically eligible to receive up to 12 hours/month of free respite care per month if they are providing care to a Ventura County CFS child. FFA foster parents, including ITFC homes, are able to receive up to 6 hours/month of free respite care. All caregivers are always welcome to work with their assigned respite care provider and pay them privately for additional hours.

Exceptions to Basic Eligibility:

Exceptions for more than 12 hours of care per month may be granted on a case by case basis. Exceptions will be approved on a quarterly basis, and will need to be

authorized each quarter. Exception request of more than 20 hours per month will require manager approval. Exceptions for more than two consecutive quarters will be considered on limited basis. FFA homes are not eligible for exceptions.

Priorities for exceptions to the basic respite program are as follows:

1. Caregivers caring for medically fragile children who are receiving services/intervention to meet medical needs.
2. Caregivers caring for children with significant behavioral, developmental, and/or mental health symptoms and are receiving services to address these needs.
3. Caregivers caring for sibling sets or who have multiple placements in the home.
4. Caregivers providing care for teens that are unable to be independent due to mental health, behavioral, and/or medical issues.

Regal Entertainment Group Summer Express Movies

Regal movie theaters will be showing family-friendly movies throughout the summer for \$1! All movies are rated G or PG and start at 10 am. Local Regal movie theaters are local in Camarillo and Simi Valley. Visit their websites for the movie schedule [HERE](#) or [HERE](#).



Save the Date:

Mark your calendar for September 24th & 25th for the 2015 California State Quality Parenting Initiative Conference located this year in our own downtown Ventura at the Crowne Plaza.

Join foster and relative caregivers, social workers, former foster youth, and foster care leaders from around the state, as well as CA Department of Social Services Director Will Lightbourne, as we discuss how Foster Caregivers and Child welfare agencies can more closely partner, collaborate, support and understand the needs of our children in care.

Limited scholarships will be available to caregivers. Contact us at fostervckids@ventura.org or call 654-3220

The Reasonable & Prudent Parent Standard

We know that as a licensed foster parent, you have many standards to meet and regulations to follow. The Foster VC Kids team is here to help you understand those rules. Babysitting is something that many caregivers have questions about. California, in its effort towards normalcy for foster children and the families that care for them, adopted the Reasonable & Prudent Parent Standard in 2006. This standard applies in specific situations when a caregiver arranges other care for a child or allows a child to participate in activities in our outside the home.

State Laws and Foster Family Home Regulations Allow:

- Foster Children are able to participate more freely in extracurricular, social and enrichment activities provided the care takes reasonable steps to determine the appropriateness of the activity given the child's age, maturity, and developmental level. These activities include sports, school-related activities, recreational activities, organized clubs/groups, sleepovers, visitors to the home, and use of computer and cell phone.
- Foster Caregivers are allowed to use occasional, short term baby-sitters (less than 24 hours of care) without requiring a background check, TB test, or CPR Training. Caregivers should share information about the child's emotional, behavioral, medical, or physical conditions and how to reach the caregiver with the babysitter.
- This does not apply to ongoing, predictable childcare needs. In those cases, babysitters are required to be background checked and the care needs to take place in the foster family home.
- For care provided in the foster family home for more than 24 hours, the babysitter must also be background checked.
- Care provided out of the home for more than 72 hours is considered a placement change and requires social worker approval.



Notes from Our Nurses:

Water Safety Tips For Summer

Warm weather, longer days, shorter nights, and soaking up the sunshine at the beach or pool side is something many Ventura County residents are looking forward to. Unfortunately with summer coming, the incidence of child drowning increases. Understanding what to look for to prevent or reduce the risk of drowning and eliminating the misconception of what actual drowning looks like is critical to decrease these incidences. In many child drownings, adults are nearby but are unaware that the victim is in fact struggling. Drowning is almost always deceptively quiet. The waving, splashing, and yelling seen on television is rarely seen in real life. It is critical that you practice safe behaviors around any bodies of water.

Some tips include:

1. Never use inflatable “water wings” or other devices, as they can deflate or pop and often leave caregivers with a false sense of security and the child with a false sense of his/her abilities in the water. Use only a coast guard

approved life vests as support in the water, but don't rely on it for supervision of a child.

2. Never swim alone or allow a child to be alone in a pool or other body of water. A water safe adult should always be present.
3. Always brief baby-sitters on the rules and water safety levels of children.
4. Don't leave chairs or other items of furniture where a child could use them to climb into a fenced pool area.
5. Don't think you'll hear a child who's in trouble in the water; child drowning is a silent death, with no splashing to alert anyone that the child is in trouble

For more information visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/index.html>

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/water-safety>

Foster Health Link Coming Soon!

The county's roll out of Foster Health link, an online portal that will provide up to date health information about the children in your care will be taking place this summer! This “electronic backpack” will continue to move us closer to our goal of improved information sharing and collaboration. Training on how to use Foster Health Link will be offered in-person throughout the county, as well as on online. Join us on Thursday, June 11th from 9:30 am to 10:30 am at the Ventura County Community Foundation, located at 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo. RSVP to alison.young@ventura.org.

In the meantime, you will need an email address to be able to access the portal. If you don't already have one please, sign up for a free one at <https://accounts.google.com/signup>.

Please also remember to send an email to fostervckids@ventura.org so we can add your email to the database!



Just In Time Training is Here!

As part of our Quality Parenting Initiative, Foster VC Kids is excited to announce the launch of the QPI California website and Just in Time Training! Visit www.qpicalifornia.org to learn more about the initiative. Just in Time training does exactly what the name says: it provides free online training just in time to meet your training needs. The QPI California team is working diligently to create training videos to add to the existing library, which already includes nearly 100 training videos.


These trainings are provided by subject matter experts and are recorded, edited, and uploaded for caregivers to watch at their convenience. Training topics range from health

issues, behaviors, parenting, caring for teens, transitions, trauma, and partnering with birth families. Many of the trainings offer a quiz and will email you a certificate of completion that you can use for your annual training hour requirements. In the coming year, we hope to offer live, interactive webcast trainings that can join in person or from your home. Nearly all of these trainings are eligible to reach your annual 8 hours of in-service training requirement.

The Foster VC Kids team wants to hear what trainings you'd like to see on the website! Email your ideas and recommendations to angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org.



Just in Time Training

"Training you need, when and where you need it" 

New Support Group in Ventura

Support from your peer foster parents is critical to your success! One of our long time foster parents, Amanda Bowles (licensed for 10 years!), has created a new support group that is open to caregivers! The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Amanda at **805-320-6705** or amanda.bowles86@gmail.com for the time and location.

If you are interested in starting a support or play group in your community and would like Foster VC Kids to help you get the word out, just drop us an email at fostervckids@ventura.org with the information. We can share it on our Face Book page, website, and newsletter

Have you Signed up for iFoster yet?

By joining the iFoster online, you can access deals such as free mobile internet, deeply discounted laptops, low cost and free tutoring, and discounted orthodontics and identify local resources to help you meet the needs of the children in your care. Foster caregivers, relatives, foster care supporters, and foster youth ages 16-24 are eligible to join at www.ifoster.org!

Resource Corner: James Store House

The James Store House warehouse has clothing from birth to age 21! The warehouse is especially overflowing with teen clothes, shoes and accessories right now. They also have a ton of baby gear, as well as diapers and wipes. Visit James Store House during open hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 2 pm or make an appointment by calling **(805) 499-7161**. James Store House is located at 3541 Old Conejo Road, #117 Newbury Park, CA 91320.

Kudos Corner

We know that sometimes the idea of partnering with a birth family is scary-most things that are unfamiliar make us feel unsure. Part of being a foster parent is to co-parent with the child's parents and support the plan to reunify the family whenever possible. Effectively partnering with a birth family may allow you to continue to have a relationship with the child/ren you love so much.

Foster VC Kids wants to thank Josh and Jinell for allowing us to share a little about their journey in partnering with birth families. As our agency continues to move closer and closer to our goal of foster and birth families parenting together, we want you to keep Josh and Jinell in mind. This was submitted by their social worker, Saraa Lee:

"I am writing to let you know that we have a set of outstanding foster parents that I would love to have recognized in some way. Josh and Jinell have fostered 3 children, I believe. They went from never having had any contact with a biological

parent to not only being willing to contact the parents via telephone, but actually attending and being rich participants in a recent TDM (Team Decision Making meeting). They personally transport the child in their care to visits with parents and additional grandparent visits, in order for the child to have a smooth transition when being moved from their care to paternal grandmother's care. I have been very vocal about how important their actions have been, as the department is actively moving toward having more openness between parents and foster parents for the well being of our children. They were very hesitant, but on their own decided the level of interaction they wanted to have, and it is very high."

On behalf of the entire Foster VC Kids team, thank you Josh and Jinell and the many other foster parents we know are forming a strong working relationship with the parents of the children in their homes! ***This embodies what Foster VC Kids is all about!***

Call for Kudos!

We know that excellent partnership between caregivers and social workers happens every day. Now, the Foster VC Kids team wants to hear about it. We try to include caregiver kudos submitted by social worker in each issue.

Now we're asking for caregivers to submit kudos about their social workers to the Foster VC Kids team. Please drop an email to angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org to share the love!



What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Please don't forget to visit our Events calendar at www.fostervckids.org for up-to-date information on training, networking groups, and other events. Be sure to also "like" **Foster VC Kids on Facebook** to get regular updates about training, other Foster VC Kids events & read caregiver kudos.

CPR and First Aid Re-Certification

Don't forget you have to renew your CPR and First Aid every two years! Here are the upcoming FREE classes!

- **CPR - June 5th** Day Road Center in Ventura
- **First Aid – June 12th** Anthem Church in Thousand Oaks
- **First Aid – June 19th** Day Road Center in Ventura
- **CPR – July 10th** Day Road Center in Ventura

All East County classes will be held at Anthem Church in Thousand Oaks, 390 Arcturus St, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Thousand Oaks classes start at 4:00pm and end at 6:00pm. All West County Classes will be held at the Day Road Center at Ventura College, 71 Day Rd, Ventura CA 93003. Ventura classes start at 4:30pm and end at 6:30pm.

To register please contact your local FKCE office:
For West County email rcarlson@vcccd.edu or debbieflowers@vcccd.edu or call 986-5800 x2018 or 289-6181. For East County email Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu or call 378-1400 x1891

The Therapeutic Use of Daily Life Events

Tuesday, June 2nd , 8:30 am-4:00 pm, 975 Flynn Rd., Camarillo

This course explores the use of everyday life events, as they are occurring, for therapeutic purposes. It provides a framework of supporting others in moving to a place of less pain and trouble – or simply towards the next step in their development. Topics include recognizing daily life events, themes, opportunities, characteristics of relational child and youth care, the process of change, and the elements of intervention. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacifica-centers-for-children-and-families-254246353>

CASA presents: After 18 Training

Saturday, June 6th, 9:30 am-3:30 pm, RSVP for location

Join the CASA team for this training on issues affecting youth after the age of 18. For more info or to RSVP, email bernadette@CASAofVenturaCounty.org.

Foster Health Link Training

**Thursday, June 11th, 9:30-10:30, VCCF
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd. Camarillo**

Please see page 6 for more info!

CASA presents: Incarcerated Families: How Families Cope and Thrive With An Incarcerated Family Member

Thursday, June 18th, 6:00pm-8:00 pm, RSVP for location

Join the CASA team for this training on supporting families who have dealt with incarceration. For more info or to RSVP, email bernadette@CASAofVenturaCounty.org.

Fairy Tales in the Park

Saturdays and Sundays, throughout the county

Fairy Tales in the Park is volunteer based theater troupe that provides free shows throughout the community! This summer performances will be held in Simi Valley, Westlake, Camarillo, Ventura, and Oxnard! Shows are outdoors and are typically 45 minutes long. Visit <http://www.fairytalesinthepark.com/> to see their schedule of summer performances!



What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Fun in the Sun II

*Saturday, June 13th, 9:00am – 2:00pm,
Ventura Beach Marriott*

The Ventura Community College District's FKCE programs have partnered to bring the summer Fun in the Sun training conference back for a 2nd year! This year, the keynote speaker will be Elaine Whitefeather.

Lunch will be provided, as will childcare by contacting Channel Islands Social Services directly. Spanish language workshops will also be provided! Register by emailing RCarlson@vcccd.edu or calling (805) 289-6181. Save the date and plan to join us!

Women of Substance, Men of Honor (WOSMOH) Hoops Tournament

Saturday, June 20th, 8 am, Sycamore Canyon School - 4601 Via Rio, Newbury Park 91320

This year's 3x3 WOSMOH Hoops is on! Women of Substance & Men of Honor, Inc is a non-profit community organization dedicated to providing support to young men and women throughout Ventura County and the state of CA. All proceeds raised at WOSMOH HOOPS! go towards housing for emancipated foster youth.

Event Details: Registration Time - 8:00 a.m., Games Start - 9:00 a.m. Cost - \$75/ team (max 4 per team) To Register: Online: WOSMOH Inc, or by Phone: 805- 376-0472 If you are interested in volunteering please call 805-376-0472.

Trauma Informed Practices for Children Exposed to Family Violence

Wednesday, June 24th, 2015, 9:00am – 4:00pm, VCCF Non-Profit Center, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo

This full day training will focus on: The impact of stress, trauma, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) on the child's developing brain, physiology, and developmental milestones; assessing and understanding behaviors in children indicative of family violence exposure; Identifying trauma-informed interventions and supports for children exposed to family violence; Strategies to foster resiliency in children and families. Register today at: <https://sfpf.wufoo.com/forms/sf-pf-learning-community-s4/>

For more information contact Jackie Flores-Ortega (805) 482-4403 or email jfortega@partnershipforsafefamilies.org

Morning West County Foster Parent Networking

*Wednesday, June 24th, 10:00am – 12:00pm,
Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours Please RSVP to Elisa at elisa.carreno@ventura.org or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

Evening West County Foster Parent Networking

*Tuesday, June 30th, 6:00 pm – 8:00pm,
Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP to Elisa at elisa.carreno@ventura.org or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

Foster and Relative Caregiver Family Picnic hosted by the Children's Services Auxiliary

*Saturday, July 11th, 11:00am – 2:00pm,
Freedom Park, Camarillo*

The Children's Services Auxiliary of Ventura County invites you to a family friendly picnic with arts, crafts, games, raffles and BBQ Lunch. Families are asked to contribute a side dish RSVP to Elisa at elisa.carreno@ventura.org or (805) 289-1926 by July 1, 2015.

CASA presents: Working With Parents With Mental Illness

Thursday, July 16th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, RSVP for location

Join the CASA team for this training on supporting families who have dealt with mental illness. For more info or to RSVP, email bernadette@CASAofVenturaCounty.org.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

CASA presents: Juvenile Dependency Team Discussion Panel Roles and Responsibilities

Thursday, July 23rd, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, RSVP for location

Join the CASA team for this training on the juvenile dependency team. For more info or to RSVP, email bernadette@CASAofVenturaCounty.org.

Evening West County Foster Parent Networking

*Tuesday, July 28th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm,
Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point
Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP to Elisa at elisa.carreno@ventura.org or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

Morning West County Foster Parent Networking

*Wednesday, July 29th, 10:00am – 12:00pm,
Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point
Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP to Elisa at elisa.carreno@ventura.org or (805) 289-1926. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

Upcoming Informational Session for Prospective Foster Parents

*Tuesday, June 30th from 6:00 pm-8:00
pm at 855 Partridge Dr. Ventura.*

Families can also complete the informational session online at <http://fostervckids.org/training/>.

Kinship Parenting for Relative Care Givers (Walk-ins welcome!)

Kinship care is the full or part-time parenting of children by grandparents or other relatives. These training groups will explore the practical issues related to parenting a second generation and provide tools and support to help you get and keep your bearing along the way. **No RSVP needed.** For further information, email kssp@kidsandfamilies.org.

Oxnard Resource Group

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month,
6:00 pm-7:30 pm, Sierra Linda Elementary
School, 2201 Jasmine Street, Oxnard

Ventura Resource Group

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month,
6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Kids & Families Together
856 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura

Simi Valley Resource Group

3rd Wednesday of each month,
6:00-8:00pm, Simi Valley Senior Center,
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

Thousand Oaks Resource Group

2nd Tuesday of each month,
6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Senior Concerns, 401
Hodencamp Rd. Thousand Oaks

Camarillo Resource Group

4th Wednesday of each month,
6:00 pm-8:00 pm, at CISS,
5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G, Camarillo

Santa Paula Resource Group (Bilingual)

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm, SPHS 404 N. 6th
St. Room 114, Santa Paula

Foster Care Snapshot:

The Critical Need Continues...

In the Month of March:

A total of **1,155** cases were open with CFS.

There were **37** removals and **30** closed cases.

300 children were in foster care placements (County, Small Family Home and FFA).

109 children remained in group homes or in shelter care.

353 children were in kinship/relative care placements.

We welcomed **2** new foster homes into the CFS family!



Please help us spread the word about the need for quality foster homes! Remember, foster parents are eligible to receive an incentive of **\$100** for referring a family once they complete the licensing process and an additional **\$100** once a child is placed in the new foster family's home! **Contact your licensing analyst for more information!**

Useful Links

Foster VC Kids
fostervckids.org
iFoster
www.ifoster.org

CFS Independent Living Program
www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth
Children's Services Auxiliary
www.csavc.org

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates
www.casaofventuracounty.org/
Channel Islands Social Services
www.islandsocialservices.org/
California Youth Connection
www.cal-youthconn.org/
Hope 4 Kids Festival & Run
<http://www.hope4kids.myevent.com/>

Kids & Families Together
www.kidsandfamilies.org/
VC Foster Parent Association
www.vcfpa.com/
Dark to Dawn
www.darktodawn.org/

James Storehouse
www.jamesstorehouse.org/
Women of Substance, Men of Honor
www.wosmohinc.com/

Interface Children & Family Services
www.icfs.org
Aspiranet
www.aspiranet.org/

Arrow Child & Family Ministries
www.arrow.org/
Casa Pacifica
www.casapacifica.org/

Koinonia Family Services
www.kfh.org/
National Foster Parent Association
www.nfpaonline.org/
TEACH Fund Scholarship
www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml
VC Office of Education Foster Care Services
www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx
Neighborhoods for Learning
www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning

Child Development Resources
www.childdevelopmentresources.org/
Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center
www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com/
Macaroni Kid
www.camarillo.macaronikid.com/
Parent Click
www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com/

Foster Parent Training Sites

Foster Care & Adoptive Community
www.fosterparents.com/
Foster Parent College
www.fosterparentcollege.com/
California's Just in Time Training
www.qpicalifornia.com
Foster Club
www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training
Centpatco U
<http://www.cenpatcoU.com>