



**Kinship Support Division of
Department of Children and Family Services
Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers
Volume II, Issue 8, August 2012**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: “The difference between try and triumph is a little umph.”
-Anonymous

Hello Kinship families! This month, we have a lot of activities and resources geared specifically for you and your children. As a reminder, the Kinship Resources Centers are available to you for any of your concerns in regards to raising your child. We are here to serve you. Call us any time at: 1-888-694-7273; Kinship South at (562) 777-1751 or Kinship North at (323) 298-3515.

Things that Make You Go Hmmm? (by Marianne Yamato, CSA I)



I was recently reminded about the importance of the roles that adults play in children’s lives, and how the people that we as adults and kinship caregivers associate with can really influence our children.

Just wanted to put a reminder to Kinship caregivers that are still involved with DCFS, for any adult that may have substantial contact with your children, or if you have any adults residing in your home, **they must be Live Scanned with DCFS**. This Live Scan (criminal background check by fingerprinting) will protect your children from people that may not be the best influences on them. It is your duty to protect your children. Also, as a second reminder, remember what it means to be a “monitor” regarding visitations that occur with the child.

***MONITOR’S INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACE-TO-FACE VISITS AND TELEPHONE CALLS**

1. Be sure to start the visit on time, including providing transportation, if that has been agreed to.
2. Do not allow anyone who appears unexpectedly to participate in the visit. If the visitor wishes to be accompanied by an additional person refer him/her to the CSW for approval of a future visit.
3. If the visitor exhibits signs of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or uses drugs or alcohol during the visit, the visit shall immediately be terminated.
4. Verify with the CSW, and the visitor, what language is to be spoken at all times during the visit. Do not permit any whispering, hand signals or passing of notes.
5. Iterate visitation restrictions with the visitor and confirm that they are understood. For example, there is to be no discussion of the court case.
6. Follow instructions given by the CSW and/or the court. For example, may the visitor take photographs of the child?
7. Keep the child in sight and within hearing range at all times. For example, do not allow the visitor to take the child to the bathroom without you.
8. Stay objective and impartial; do not criticize or take sides. Attempt to divert any disagreements as soon as they begin.

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9. Avoid arguments, comments, discussion and inquiries with the visitor. Direct his/her concerns to the CSW.
10. Encourage positive interaction between the child and the visitor.
11. Be alert to, and control any physical contact between, the visitor and the child. Watch for signs that the child's comfort level has been compromised. Confirm with the CSW what limitations on physical contact have been discussed with the visitor beforehand. Examples of physical contact that may cause discomfort are: lap sitting, tickling, stroking, hugging.
12. Be aware, the adult visitor should be allowed to set limits and control the child's behavior, but no corporal punishment is allowed, and you may assist if the adult visitor is having difficulty controlling the situation.
13. If the child exhibits undue discomfort that doesn't dissipate after 20 minutes, or if the visitor fails to adhere to agreed upon guidelines, after two warnings, **terminate** the visit. Explain to the child that the CSW and the visitor will work together to eliminate the cause of the problem so visits can continue in the future, but for now, the visit must end.
14. Ten minutes prior to the end of the visit prepare the child and the visitor for its conclusion.
15. Terminate the visit on time.
16. Encourage the child and the visitor to contact the CSW regarding the visit.
17. Document observed behaviors between the visitor/parent and child, without drawing conclusions or making recommendations, and report to the CSW at the time agreed upon prior to the visit.

Continuing Education for Kinship Care Providers:



KEPS...The Next Generation Orientations for Relative Caregivers/NREFM:

Attention: Relative Caregivers / Non-Related Extended Family Members...Come learn about your role as a caregiver in a comfortable setting *Learn about the legal process, ASFA, etc. *Resources for caregivers *Opportunity to ask general questions. **Upcoming orientations will be held at the following DCFS Offices. Please RSVP as soon as possible to: (562) 777-1751. Snacks provided. Addresses to offices will also be given upon RSVP. Childcare arranged as needed and available.**



8/10/2012 at Metro North (9-12pm)
8/14/2012 at Covina Annex (9-12pm)
8/17/2012 at Kinship North (9-12pm)
8/21/2012 at Lancaster (9-12pm)
8/21/2012 at Santa Clarita (1-4pm)
8/24/2012 at West Los Angeles (9-12pm)

Kinship Resources and Events:

Back to School Celebration and Community Resource Fair

Free Back-to-School Supplies (Supplies include: backpacks, pens, pencils, scissors, notebooks, binders and more. 1st come, 1st served while supplies last). Free Services include: Blood Pressure Testing, Blood Sugar Testing, HIV Testing AND More. **Date:** Saturday, August 11, 2012, **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Place:** Brown Memorial Temple * 985 West Holt Avenue * City of Pomona.
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 909-643-5157 or e-mail: bmtcogic@aol.com

Kohl's Shopping Spree! Spaces are limited. **More info. contact: Lovette Panthier, SCSW (818) 717- 4686.** (San Fernando, Santa Clarita & West Valley DCFS offices ONLY--must have an open DCFS case) For children ages 5-18; WHEN: Sat., August 18, 2012; TIME: 6:30 am. WHERE: Kohl's, 6651 N Fallbrook Ave., West Hills, CA 91307

FAME Renaissance Center

Saturday, August 18, 2012 • 8:30 AM

1968 West Adams Blvd. at Western, LA 90018; Event Entrance on 27th Street and Hobart
FREE Backpacks FREE School Supplies FREE Shoes FREE Medical Screenings
Plus FREE Food, FUN Games and LIVE Entertainment
While Supplies Last!

*Giveaways are for school aged children only (Ages 5-17). Child must be present at all times to receive backpack and shoes. For more information please call 323-730-7727.



Fourth Annual Million Father March and Back to School Health Fair -- September 29, 2012 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Begins at Watts Willowbrook Boys & Girls Club and ends at Mona Park, 2291 E. 121st Street, Compton.



Free Back to School Haircuts for Kinship Children at Marinello Beauty Schools

5pm to 8pm

Los Angeles-East : 1241 S. Soto Street, #101
Los Angeles, CA 90023: **August 14**

Lomita: 2418 Lomita Blvd., Ste. B
Lomita, CA 90717: **August 21**

Paramount: 8527 Alondra Blvd., #129
Paramount, CA 90723: **August 21**

Whittier: 6538 Greenleaf Ave.
Whittier, CA 90601: **August 28**

Marinello Beauty Schools will be supporting the Department of Children and Family Services Kinship Division by providing **FREE** haircuts to children in need living in a Kinship home (relative caregiver/Legal Guardian/NREFM), **20 FREE Haircuts for each school listed above.** You must call Kinship at **(562) 777-1751** to **reserve** a spot for your child.

Free Tutoring Services Offered by Youth Development Services

Youth ages 14-18 in out of home placement can be referred for an out of home assessment. If the youth is functioning below the grade level, up to 50 hours of in-home tutoring can be provided. Youth ages 18-20 may also be able to be assessed. Contact your CSW to refer or contact (213) 351-0100.

METRO PASS



You qualify for a free METRO pass if:

- You were in foster care or on probation after age 16
- and are currently between the ages of 18 and 21

To apply for a pass, you can:

- > Contact your ILP Coordinator at 1.877.MYILP411
- > Go to ilponline.org for more information
- > Email youthds@dcsf.lacounty.gov

Employment Opportunities for Foster Youth and Former Foster Youth!



Are You Between the Ages of 18 and 20?

Are You Interested in a Part-Time or Full-Time Job?

Are You ILP Eligible (in foster care at age 16)?
Go to ILPonline.org to find out how to contact your ILP coordinator and be referred today!

Each One Teach One (Youth Symposium)

WHEN: August 18, 2012, 9am-4pm , WHERE: Central City Neighborhood Partners 501 S. Bixel St. Los Angeles, CA 90017, WHO: Current and former foster youth, homeless youth, caregivers, and agencies , * ILP Eligible Youth between the ages of 18 to 21 can request a \$50 incentive for attending this Symposium. EACH ONE TEACH ONE is an interactive seminar that will address the following topics about HEALTHY LIVING (Healthy Eating, Physical Health, Sexual Health, Mental Health, Healthy Relationships, Drugs/Alcohol, Pregnancy Prevention)

Please contact 213-351-0278 or ROUeach1teach1@gmail.com to RSVP and for more information.

Splash, La Mirada Water Park



Come and spend a day at the water park. Flow on a lazy river, rush down a water slide, or relax in the children's water play area.

Where: Splash, La Mirada Aquatics Center, 13806 La Mirada Blvd. La Mirada, CA 90638

Kinship Families will be able to use tickets any day in the month of August 2012

Space is limited to only 200 Kinship children and 75 Kinship caregivers. Call (562) 777-1751 to reserve your spot.



Check out Kinship on the web at: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/kinshippublic/default.html>

Kinship Support Division - Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers
1-888-MYGRAND; 1-562-777-1751