

Foster Power

"The More We Know, The More We Grow"

Foster & Kinship Care Education Program

Director's Message

Dear Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers,

It is with great joy that I greet you and your family. As I review our 2007 year, the program has benefited from many joint collaborations within the community on the local, county and state level – which has shown in our classroom attendance as well as supportive activities for our youth. I am so glad we have parents like you – that are willing to go the extra mile. Some great workshops and conferences have reflected this growth in the 2007 year:

- Increase in program facility visibility from 3 locations to 8 locations, within the county.
- Increase in attendance for Spanish PRIDE training for prospective foster parents.
- Increase in collaborations: Six Merced County Agencies and four local non-profits.

This upcoming 2008 year poses a continuance of educational and developmental growth. Plans are underway to support (via partnership and/or fund raising) the following initiatives, to benefit our foster youth during the spring/summer:

- Merced College 4Kids, Summer Camp
- Boys and Girls Club, Annual Membership
- Train with the Trainers, Co-Ed Sports Camp

Thank you for making a Difference in our community's youth lives. You are so very much appreciated!

Blessings,
Veronica I. Oforlea

January is Family Fit Lifestyle Month

In her article, ***Making Fitness A Family Affair***, Lisa Rosenthal, Greatschools.net staff member wrote, "The key to successful family fitness is to keep it simple and fun for everyone. Make your activities a family tradition that everyone will look forward to."

Here are a few ideas:

- **Take the Family on a Walk**
- **Play Catch**
- **Have a Hula Hoop contest**
- **Jump Rope**
- **Play Ball**
- **Ride Bikes**



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Contact Us:

If you would like to submit story ideas or letters to the community, please email them to oforlea.v@mccd.edu or send by fax to: (209) 381-6482. This newsletter is designed to keep you abreast of what is going on in and around your community with regards to the FKCE and ILP programs.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Lunch Boxes have Elevated Levels of Lead

In a news release from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), consumers are urged to stop using lunch boxes, which have been distributed as CDPH nutrition educational items, after testing showed elevated levels of lead in three lunch boxes. The canvas lunch boxes that showed elevated levels of lead were green with a logo reading EAT FRUITS & VEGETABLES AND BE ACTIVE. Approximately 56,000 of these lunch boxes have been distributed throughout California at health fairs and other events. Individuals who have these lunch boxes should return them to the place where they got them, if possible, or take them to their local household hazardous waste (HHW) collection facility for disposal. Local HHW facilities can be found at one of the following Web sites:



Lunch box pictured tested positive for lead

- <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/HHW.cfm>
- <http://www.earth911.com>
- <http://www.ciwm.ca.gov>

AB 340 (Hancock)

Child Welfare Services: Resource Family Pilot Program



Summary: Existing law requires the placement of dependent children by the juvenile court according to specified procedures. Existing law requires the state, through the State Department of Social Services and county welfare departments, to establish and support a system of statewide child welfare, which provides for the licensure of foster care

providers, and the approval of adoptive parents. This bill would require the State Department of Social Services, in consultation with county welfare agencies, to implement a pilot program to establish a unified resource family approval process to replace the existing multiple processes for licensing foster family homes, approving relatives and non-relative extended family members as foster care providers, and approving adoptive

families, as provided in the bill. The bill would define a resource family for its purposes as an individual or couple that a participating county has approved to care for a related or unrelated child who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or otherwise in the care of a county child welfare agency. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Great News from Washington, DC

President Bush signed into law the [College Cost Reduction and Access Act \(HR 2669\)](#), the bill that includes the Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act amendment, making it possible for **teens in foster care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid**. Under this new law, youth who are adopted **after their 13th birthday** will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid.



Trivia



- What's the most concentrated source of energy in a diet-- carbohydrates, fat or protein?
- What blood type is the Universal Donor?
- What creature's tongue weighs as much as a full grown elephant?

Answers on back page

FKCE Schedule-at-a-Glance ~ Spring 2008

*Classes begin January 14, 2008



CLASSES

“Inside The Teenage Brain” (4 hours)

Mondays ~ January 14 - January 28, 2008 ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~ Merced College, V-143

“Nurturing Parent” (14 hours)

Thursdays ~ January 17 - March 6, 2008 ~ 6:30-8:30pm ~ Merced College, V-41

“Foster PRIDE / Adopt PRIDE” (27 hours)

Saturdays ~ January 19 - February 23, 2008 ~ 9:00am-3:30pm ~ Tri-College Center, TCC-4C

“Adoption Workshop” (3 hours)

Saturday ~ February 23, 2008 ~ 12:30-3:30pm ~ Tri-College Center, TCC-4C

“Exploring Career Pathways: A Guide for Parents and their Youth” (12 hours)

Mondays ~ February 4 - March 17, 2008 ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~ Merced College, V-143

“The Explosive Child” (14 hours)

Wednesdays ~ February 6 - March 19, 2008 ~ 6:30-8:30pm ~ Total Self Insight, 1575 W. Main St.

“Advanced Foster PRIDE” (16 hours)

Mondays ~ March 31 - May 19, 2008 ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~ Merced College, V-143

“Foster Parent 101” (12 hours)

Tuesdays ~ April 1 - April 22, 2008 ~ 6:30-9:30pm ~ Boys & Girls Club, 615 W. 15th St.

“Educational Issues” (10 hours)

Wednesdays ~ April 2 - April 30, 2008 ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~ Los Banos Campus, B-136

“Foster PRIDE / Adopt PRIDE” (27 hours)

Saturdays ~ April 19 - May 17, 2008 ~ 9:00am-3:30pm ~ Tri-College Center, TCC-4C

“Adoption Workshop” (3 hours)

Saturday ~ May 17, 2008 ~ 12:30-3:30pm ~ Tri-College Center, TCC-4C

ESPAÑOL

“La Crianza Practica De Los Hijos” (18 horas)

Miércoles ~ Enero 16 - Marzo 12, 2008 ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~ Los Banos, B-136

“Crianza PRIDE” (27 horas)

Sábados ~ Marzo 1 - Abril 12, 2008 ~ 9:00am-3:30pm ~ Tri-College Centre, TCC-4C

WORKSHOPS

“Engaging Young Children in Mathematics” (6 hours)

Thursday ~ February 7, 2008 ~ 8:30am-3:00pm ~ Madera Golf Course

Foster & Kinship Care Education Program

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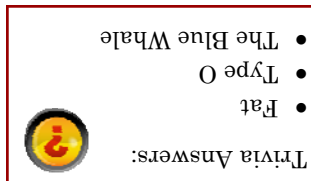
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We're on the Web!
www.mccd.edu/programs

To Our VIP:

Very Important Parent



FKCE Classes begin January 14, 2008



Kids.gov is the Official Kids Portal for the U.S. Government. It is a family-friendly website that makes it easy for your children to learn and have fun, from kindergarten to eight grade. With links to over 1,200 web pages, they can play games, create art projects, explore different careers and money management, learn how the government works and get help with homework.



The Boys & Girls Club

Did You Know?

- "The Club" offers help with homework
- "The Club" offers art classes
- "The Club" offers computer classes
- "The Club" offers pool, foosball and lots more!
- "The Club" offers programs in character and leadership development, health and life skills.

For more information visit them at bgcmerced.org, or call them at 209-722-9922, or drop by "The Club" located at 615 W. 15th Street