

Cultural Diversity in Foster Care: What It Means To Families

Foster care, by its nature, is culturally diverse. Abused and neglected children are placed in strangers' homes, where expectations and communication styles are very different from where they came from. No matter how welcoming their foster parents are, foster children have to adjust to rules and traditions that are not their own. Some have never had a birthday party or a bedtime. Others have never been taught not to curse at the dinner table or to bathe daily. Learning to deal with these differences can be challenging for both foster parents and foster children.

Some argue that a child's transition into a foster home can be made less traumatic by placing him with foster parents of the same race and/or religion. Others say that race and religion should not play a role in where the child is placed. They feel the child should go to any foster family who is ready, willing and able to care for him. Many child welfare agencies try to place children in foster homes of the same race or religion whenever possible, but this is difficult when there are few foster families of the same race or religion in the community.

Cultural Diversity in Foster Care: Positives and Negatives

It's easy to see how a foster child missing home might embrace having some familiar foods or activities in his/her foster home. Being at peace with one's self can be a hard task, no matter where you're from and what your circumstances, but when achieved, it can make a lasting impact on how a person views and treats others. Tolerance and acceptance learned at home can have a lasting impact on how a child perceives the world. Sometimes it is not only the foster child and foster parent who are different. Often, other foster children in the home may be other races or religions too. Many foster families enjoy honoring their foster children's culture by making special foods or celebrating different holidays in their homes, as well as sharing their own dishes and traditions. This exchange of ideas and beliefs can foster feelings of belonging and respect.

Adapted from FAFSNEWSLETTER

Foster Parent PRIDE Training: Next location for Pride series in June will be held at Child and Family Charities, 4287 Five Oaks Dr, Lansing. RSVP to your licensing worker if you are interested in attending. The dates and times for the trainings are as follows:

- PRIDE 4&5: Friday, June 12, 2015 from 9am-noon and 1pm-4pm
- PRIDE 6: Friday, June 19, 2015 from 9am-noon
- PRIDE 7: Friday, June 19, 2015 from 1pm-4pm
- PRIDE 8: Friday, June 28 from 9am-noon
- PRIDE 9: Friday, June 26 from 1pm-4pm



New Foster Parent Orientation:

Do you know someone who might be interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent? Orientations are held every other Monday from 6:00-8:00pm at CFC. The next dates of orientation are July 13th and July 27th. Contact Linda Rathbun at 517-882-4000 ext. 140 to RSVP

Save the Date!

The Foster Family Summer Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th from 4-6pm at **Hawk Island Park**.
More details to come...stay tuned!

Free Event at Abrams Planetarium!

Join us at the Abrams Planetarium on the campus of MSU for a safari in the night sky. Learn about the animals you can visit at the Potter Park Zoo while the sun is up and their constellation counterparts you can see when the sun is down. Learn how to identify the constellations and learn the stories of these constellations that come from different cultures around the world. Then meet some of the Potter Park Zoo's furry, feathered, and scaled friends!



Reactive Attachment Disorder Support Group

The Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) Support Group has been meeting for over 13 years. News families are always welcome to join— both foster and adoptive families can attend. The group typically meets on the 4th Monday of each month at the agency from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dinner is served potluck style, and if families register ahead of time, childcare may be provided. The next meeting will be held on June 22nd.

Please RSVP to Korey Wheeler at 517-882-4000 Ext. 133 or koreywheeler@childandfamily.org

Staffing Changes at Child and Family Charities

Child and Family Charities has been through a lot of changes in the recent months! While we continue to seek out the right candidate for our Executive Director, we are pleased to announce that 4 new Child Welfare staff were hired and are in the process of training and orientation to their positions as Child Welfare Specialists. While there are challenges that come along with change, we are encouraged to be functioning back at full capacity within our Child Welfare Division. As a foster parent, you may experience some shifting and changes with the assigned case manager for the children placed in your home; however, we want you to know that you have a team of people to reach out to if any issues or problems arise. If your case worker is unavailable and you are unable to reach a supervisor, the licensing staff is also available to you as a liaison for any issues you may experience. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding during this time of transition!



When you're silly
When you're sad
When you're happy
When you're mad
When you're scared
When you cry
When you give up
When you try
When you're helpful
When you're not
When you giggle
When you shout
When you're messy
When you're clean
When you grumble
When you sing
When you're hopeful
When you doubt
When you chatter
When you pout
When you're quiet
When you're loud
When you're bashful
When you're proud
Wherever you go
Whatever you do
Just as you are
I'll always love you.

L.R.Knost
'The Gentle Parent'
www.littleheartsbooks.com