

# CEDARS *Fostering Words*

March 2013



## **T** **Training Hours**

Foster Parents ask many questions about training hours and what is required of them. At your request we have given Amy Schlueter the task of keeping track of training hours and notifying foster parents quarterly of what is needed and expected of them. Amy will email, call, or mail you information about upcoming trainings and what you are due for in order to keep your foster care licensing current and in good standing.

Each foster parent is required to have 12 hours per year in order to maintain your license. Per DHHS, Each training hour must be approved by the licensing agent and must be directly related to the skills necessary to care for children in out-of-home care. DHHS is very

strict about training hours and prefer to see a majority of training hours completed in classroom style trainings conducted by CEDARS or other agencies related to children in out-of-home care. Only 5-6 hours will be counted for non-classroom style trainings.

As a general rule, MANDT, Car Seat Safety, CPR and FIRST AID are required to be taken by all foster parents within 90 days of your licensure. Medication Administration is also required and will be a part of the CPR and First Aid curriculum. This is an area that is severely deficient at this time. MANDT is required initially and then each year you will have to take MANDT Advanced, which is the refresher course. For CPR/First Aid it is now good for two years.



CEDARS Foster Care takes great pride in offering a wide variety of training to assist foster parents in meeting the needs of the youth we serve. If you ever have a request for a particular training we would be happy to accommodate that request and develop a training based on your need. Please contact Amy Schlueter for any ideas you might have.

## **FREE RESPITE?**

The 10th person to email Michaela Young (myoung@cedars-kids.org) with the correct answer to the following question will earn one free respite day!

***What trainings are required for CEDARS Foster Care after you receive your license?***



**CEDARS Foster Care Team**

## Foster Parent Mentoring Group

CEDARS Foster Care is starting a new and exciting opportunity through our Foster Parent Mentoring Group. If you would like to share your experiences or gain knowledge from other foster parents we would love for you to attend. The Mentoring Group will be foster parent led and will touch on topics that foster parents have requested. The Mentoring Group will start in March and upcoming topics will include: "What to Expect if I am Placed on Hold", "How Do I Dispense Medicine", as well as many others. You will hear from other foster parents who

have been through these experiences and who will share what has worked for them. This is a great opportunity to get more training hours and knowledge. We are excited for foster parents to get to know each other, network, and become supports to one another.

Child care is provided and while the foster parents are meeting we will also have our Youth Mentoring Group. If you have a youth in your home that you feel could benefit from an adult mentor feel free to bring them to this exciting opportunity. CEDARS is partnering with local companies to match children with safe and appropriate adult mentors.

**Our first planning meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21st at 6:30pm CEDARS Northbridge. Lazlo's will provide a meal, so please RSVP as soon as possible to Amy Montgomery (amontgomery@cedars-kids.org). We will meet for an idea sharing session to gain more ideas on what you would like out of the mentoring group. We really hope to see a lot of foster parents there! Please bring your teens to this session too as we would love to hear ideas from them on what they would like out of the teen mentoring group!**

## Foster Parent and Family Resource Partner of the Month (January)

The Michal's family is a huge advocate for CEDARS. They have four adopted school age and preschool age children in their home; they are getting ready to provide permanency for another sibling set of brothers; all near the same age of their adopted children.

The Michal's have taken in a couple different teen-age girls over the past year that this worker has been in their home; They provide a very comfortable home; open communication; engage all the children in conversation; I've seen teens come in

from school and sit right down at the kitchen table with everyone.

They treat all children in their home with acceptance and encouragement. The Michal's have 2 young children in their home that have to other siblings placed in another foster home. They have never been asked to do sibling visits, but yet take the initiative to make sure the children always get to spend time together. The HHS worker could not say enough wonderful things about how the Michal's have done this for the boys.

To top it off the Michal's are very pleasant to work with and repeatedly say how much they love CEDARS.

Congratulations Julie and Jon on being January's Foster Parents of the Month!

Kassy Diessner is one of the newer members of the Foster Care team. However, one could hardly tell as she has jumped right into her role without missing a beat. Kassy maintains a positive attitude and does her best to provide strong support and guidance to all in her care. Kassy has developed strong, supportive relationships with the children that she has worked with and it is evident by the amount of time and energy she puts into all of her cases.

Congratulations Kassy on being January's Family Resource Partner of the Month!