



CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

From The President

If you haven't already made your appointment with Rachel Ewald to go to Fostercares in Roswell you may want to do it as soon as possible as it has started getting cold and you will want to get your winter items for your children.

October 29th is our Association business meeting, it will be held at Ryan's in Canton at 6:30pm. If you have any ideas for next year please feel free to come and discuss them. If you don't want to be a board member but would like to volunteer your time to help out let us know, we can always use the help. Let me know if you think you will attend so I can have enough seating for everyone.

Our next Give Me A Break Program is scheduled for Saturday December 11th at the Woodstock Recreation Center, we are working on a special program for the kids. This is a great time for you to get that free time you need to shop for the kids without having them with you. **Save The Date!**

Our next conference is scheduled for November 13th at the Antioch Christian Church. This will be our last training for the year so if you need those hours this is the perfect solution. Everyone that comes really enjoy themselves. You can earn 6 hours at this training. We will also be offering CPR as well.

Congratulations to all our families on their adoptions this past month. Buck and Kristen Irwin, Monty and Leigh Hepner, Tracey and Ray Sullivan, Dennis and Lisa Yee and Mike and Pam Frost.

Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Association

October 2010

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Featured Event for October 10th

“Family Night” event will be at the [Hot Wheels Skating Center](#), 228 Farm Ridge Dr. NE, Woodstock, GA. Bring your family with costumes but keep it none scary for the little ones. The party starts at 6pm - 9pm. We are renting the facility so be sure to come, everyone is welcome even if you don't skate. Snacks and Drinks will be provided. Costumes are not required.

Featured Event for October 30th

“Family Fun Festival” event will be Act Together Ministries would like to invite you to their event. They are a new non-profit organization in Alpharetta and their focus in on helping foster care children and children facing challenging situations. The event is on Saturday October 30th from 2pm - 5pm at the Fellowship Bible Church at 480 W Crossville Rd, Roswell, GA 30075.

To register for a spot go to <http://familyfestival.eventbrite.com/>. They are interested in being an ongoing resource for us. If you have any questions you can call Heather Clark at 678-200-9125 or hclark@acttogetherministries.com. Free clothing for children, Games, crafts, food, and more. Families may also sign up for Christmas sponsorship. Flyer is attached.

Your Role as a Father, How Important Is It?

Recent research about the role of fathers, and their approach to parenting, includes the following:

- Fathers tend stylistically to encourage problem-solving skills by letting their kids struggle with frustration a little longer before stepping in to help. (Of course, there is a huge personal variation here, as there is in mothers.)
- Fathers permit a little more emotional autonomy during learning sequences with their young children, supporting and encouraging but without the same emphasis on intimacy that is more typical among mothers.
- Fathers tend to mix play with learning a little more successfully, from the child's point of view, allowing longer work periods.
- Fathers' more functional ('do it because it needs to be done,' rather than 'do it because it will go better between us if you do') approach to academic work builds in the child a larger range of problem-solving skills over time that probably contributes to more lasting self-esteem.

Literacy & Reading to Children

It is generally agreed among educators that one of the best things adults can do for their children is to read to them.

Parent Tips:

- During early infancy, reading helps babies build neural pathways that will eventually provide language development and acquisition.
- Reading aloud to children encourages association with happiness, love and enjoyment. All of this can lead to children's greater interest in reading and can result in larger vocabularies and better literary skills.
- Choose a childcare environment that encourages story time as an important aspect of the school's routine.
- Reading aloud to children also helps them with pronunciation and phonetics. Some children are able to recognize letters and numbers before they can speak, but if they are left to this without guidance their weaknesses can lie in pronunciation and sounding out words.
- When children speak incorrectly they should be gently corrected so that they are encouraged to use proper grammar and pronunciation. Reading books can help children learn the proper format of sentences which they often mistake in late toddlerhood.
- Children who are read to regularly, are more likely to continue reading throughout their lives.
- Children who read are more likely to have better writing skills and be placed in higher level classes.

First Chores

A wonderful way to play with and teach children is to bring them into your world, where 'real-life' happens. Children love to do 'grown-up' things and to imitate you. And when they contribute, they see themselves as players and get a well-earned self-esteem boost!

Age-Appropriate Chore Ideas

Toddlers

- Pick up toys and books
- Collect dirty laundry
- Dust with socks on hands

Preschoolers

- Make the bed
- Help with laundry
- Help in the kitchen - cooking and preparing food
- Set the table
- Take dirty dishes to the kitchen
- Carry and put away groceries

Pre-Kindergarteners

- Empty the dishwasher
- Feed the family pet
- Vacuum
- Take out the trash
- Fold and put away laundry

These activities are fun learning experiences, especially if you are teaching informally along the way. The chores may take a little longer as they learn the ropes and make mistakes, but the value for their learning and their self-regard are more than worth the extra time.

Julie's Corner

September and October have been a great cause for celebration within the adoptions unit! FIVE Cherokee County foster parents have adopted children in the past 2 months! Congratulations to the following families that adopted children in September: Buck and Kristen Irwin, Monty and Leigh Hepner, Tracey and Ray Sullivan, Dennis and Lisa Yee. Mike and Pam Frost finalized the adoption of their daughter in October. We are so happy for each family and we thank them for making the life-time commitment to the children that have been placed in their home!

I wanted to remind our adoptive families that Region 17 is hosting a match meeting on Saturday, October 23rd from 10 a.m. through 12 noon at Town View Baptist Church 1115 Shiloh Rd, NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. If you would like to attend you need to RSVP to **Stephanie Rhinehart** strhinehart@dhr.state.ga.us 706-338-3912 By 10-8-10.

It's October, so that means there are only THREE months left to complete your training hours! If you have completed hours, please notify your RD worker and provide them with the training certificate. Remember you have to do 10 hours per person. 8 hours can be online hours, but you have to have 2 classroom hours or webinar hours. You also need to remain current on CPR/First Aid. If you have a pool, you need to remain current in Basic Water Rescue/Water Safety.

Julie M. Evans
Social Services Supervisor
RD/Adoptions Unit
Cherokee County Department of Family and Children Services
770-720-3674 Office, 678-717-6573 Fax

Four Ways to Make Cleanup Fun!

When it's cleanup time, are you amazed at the creative excesses your children seem to find. Were they immediately starving, like he'd hadn't eaten in days. If that didn't work did they have to go potty and hide in the bathroom until you come to find them.

By the time you actually started picking up the toys, you and the kids are usually grouchy. There has to be a better strategy so you don't lose patience and the kids wouldn't hate cleanup time. Here are some fun ideas to incorporate into household chores.

1. **Have a Cleanup Song:** Use a song your kids know from school or make up your own, for older kids use a popular song from the radio or have a special CD that is good for cleaning, one that is upbeat and motivating. You can also try songs from Musicals and each of you can pretend to play a part.
2. **Dress for the Occasion:** Find a silly hat and designate it their cleanup hat. Only bring it out when it's time to clean up. Pretend that everyone is part of a cleaning crew and have the kids make up a name for their cleaning service. Give them their own supplies with their names on it and a walkie-talkie to update each other on your cleaning progress. Make the oldest one the crew "foreman".
3. **Turn Cleaning Up into a Game:** Create a game of speed, set a timer and see if they can beat the timer for cleaning up their room. For the younger ones, break the chores into smaller tasks for races and see who can put up their toys first or see if they can put the toys in a basket before you finish singing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.
4. **Give Your Kids an Incentive:** An easy trick is to have them do their cleaning before an activity that they enjoy. Have them clean their playroom before heading outside to play or help clean the kitchen after dinner before they enjoy their dessert. Also kids love rewards like stickers or coins. Use a chart and award stickers for each day they did their chores. At the end of the week they get to pick a reward like going for Pizza or a movie night.

As you try different ideas, be sure to watch your kids and see what ideas they seem to enjoy the most. Once cleanup time starts to become less of a chore, your kids will probably also start to come up with fun games and ideas on their own.

Message from D'Anna



Fall is here! Finally! The leaves are changing, and so are the lives of many in our country. If we haven't been personally impacted, most of us know someone who has. Many qualified workers have lost jobs. Some of our children entered college with the expectation that there would be opportunities in their field of study when they graduated with that hard-won degree in hand, only to be disappointed at the lack of available jobs. This time last year we were dealing with what was called, "The Thousand-Year Flood". Homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed. But ordinary people did extraordinary things. Strangers brought water, food and assistance to victims. No matter how big the challenge is before you, I encourage you to continue to press forward, set goals for your family and maintain a positive attitude. Your heightened sense of personal power over and involvement with life events, together with a never-say-never attitude, will serve you well in relationships and in life. Keep the thought ever before you that rain has to fall before the rainbow appears.

We took custody of 13 children in September; 5 girls and 8 boys. 4 of these children were ages 0-5; 3 were from 6-12; and 6 were 13 and over. 5 of these children were white; 6 were black; 1 was Hispanic; and 1 was bi-racial. 1 of these children was placed in a Cherokee DFCS foster home; 4 were placed in group homes; 2 were placed with relatives; and 6 were placed with non-relative family friends. There was 1 sibling group of 6 children. There was 1 re-entry of a young man that was with relatives, but unfortunately were not able to manage his behaviors. None of these children were returned at the 72-hour or 10-day hearing. 1 child was transferred to Pickens County at the 72-hour hearing.

We had 7 finalized adoptions in September!!! This is so awesome - so many forever families! Congratulations to all! We had a total of 11 children exit foster care in September for reasons of reunification to family, emancipation and, of course, adoption. When September ended we had 141 children in foster care. We have 78 approved family foster homes in Cherokee County. Our latest Impact Class celebrated their graduation on October 21, 2010.

We felt the recent permanency roundtable that was held on Tuesday, Sept. 28 was a success. There was a wonderful turn out and great conversations in a relaxed atmosphere to share and learn with each other. Thanks to all who planned this event as well as to all of you who were in attendance.

Thank you for all of your love, support and time to our children!

D'Anna Liber
Director
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Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Association



Building The Future with our Foster and Adoptive Parents as they open their hearts & their homes to children.

Check website calendar for upcoming events & training.

www.fosteroradopt.org



If you would like to receive the newsletter via email go to our web site and signup.

If your email changes let us know so that we can update our records.

Check us out on **Facebook**, many of our foster parents are connecting via the net. Click link below or put "Cherokee County Foster" to find us.

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?sid=9337e82e1d11a302dc6636ebf8cd44e4&eid=75644102307&ref=search>

2010 Board Members

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SECRETARY

Shannon Griffis

TREASURER

Debbie Earle

Other Associations or Support Foundations

Foster Care Support Foundation

located at 115 Mansell Place, Roswell, Ga. 30076, 770-641-9591,

<http://www.fostercares.org>

Email: Rachel Ewald rachel@fostercares.org

Embrace Cherokee

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton, amy.blanton@embracega.org

or visit them on the web <http://www.embracega.org>

AFPAG (State Foster Parent Association)

Feel free to contact them at: contactafpag@bellsouth.net

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