

Families by Choice

A resource parent newsletter

March 2009

Couple is a great source of support

FBC Spotlight Story of Mary and Paul Martinez

Like many resource parents, Mary and Paul Martinez have devoted themselves to the well-being of kids. Not only are they parents to three foster children, but they have an adopted daughter and three biological children.

Mary and Paul are both employed by Garden City High School, Mary as a secretary, and Paul as security supervisor who instructs a class on security procedures. After their kids grew up and left home, Mary and Paul missed the full house.

"We love children and our kids were leaving," said Paul. "The house got quiet."

A family member and some friends were resource parents, so Mary and Paul were able to see just what foster parenting was all about. They took in their first kids in 1998 and many have passed through their front door ever since.

"There was no one to take care of these kids," said Paul, "and we thought we would be good at it."

"This has been a very rewarding experience," said Mary. "We have former foster kids still call and ask for advice and they still stop by to visit."

While these kids have been in the Martinez's care, they have gotten to experience what it is like to have a steady home life.

"We have a lot of fun with the kids," said Paul. "We play a lot, we will go on picnics or barbecue with family. The kids love to travel with us. We always eat together, that is our time to talk and they enjoy it."

At Christmastime, the kids got a taste of what holiday time is like at the Martinez household.

"They had never really seen a house decorated for Christmas before," said Paul. "We put up lights and have two trees, and they really liked it. Our oldest foster son, Hector, got about 20 gifts for Christmas. At home, he maybe got one. He could not believe he was getting presents from cousins he did not even know."

...here at our house, you worry only about yourself. We will take care of all the other stuff: your food, clothing, stuff like that. Here, you are a kid.

When Mary and Paul first got Hector, they remember him being polite and nice, though he did get into trouble.

Hector had an issue with lying for his biological mother on a home visit, but he was able to open up and talk to the Martinezes about what happened. This was a cue that Mary and Paul were really helping him, as this was not something he normally would have done.

Hector has been able to make progress at school too.

"His teacher has even noted how he has come a long way," said Paul. "He used to come home with stacks of referrals, now there are hardly any."

One way the Martinezes are helping relieve the stress and pressure these children feel is their simplistic approach to guiding the kids.

"With Hector, his mom put pressure on him to take care of his siblings," said Paul. "We told him, here at our house, you worry only about yourself. We will take care of all the other stuff: your food, clothing, stuff like that. Here, you are a kid."

Mary and Paul have been rewarded by getting to be involved with the foster children well after they have left the Martinez home.

It is very rewarding to help these kids," said Mary. "We have been able to help select adoptive parents for one of our foster kids. We even baptized our foster child's children. It is good to know we saved several kids, not all, but some."

One foster daughter is particularly a highlight for Mary and Paul. They described her as having several problems and growing up in her own way. She now has three children (Mary and Paul are the godparents) and is a very loving parent.

"Seeing how she treats her own kids, she does not want them to go through what she did," said Paul.

Overall, the experience of being resource parents has mostly been a positive experience for Mary and Paul.

"The positive side has been helping kids crying for help and nobody heard them until they got into foster care," said Paul, "and we helped them."

"A lot of the kids come back and thank us," said Mary, "They say, 'If it was not for you, we would not be where we are today.'"

That is a message that rings true for all resource parents.

Foster Care Leaders

Sandra Gasca
Chief Program Officer

Luci Monares
Director of Licensing

Denise Hunter-Mitchell
Director of Foster Care
Wichita & South Central

Patrice Claassen
Director of Foster Care
Greater Kansas

We would like to thank the following resource homes for choosing Youthville as their child placement agency:

Wichita
Roderick & Cynthia Byrd
Monica Davis
Robert Fells & Lolita Ray
Hudy & Melissa Scott
Darrell Bennett & Megan Morrow
Krystal Gonzales
John & Kimberly Snyder
John & Cindy Thome
Benjamin & Roxie Tiger
Carly Wickham

Northeast
Sharon Peters
Randy & Romy Robinson

Northwest
Justin & Mary Comer
Bruce & Marilyn Engel
Larry & Tamra Oberle

Southwest
Willie & Lesley Carswell
Gail & Christine Beery

North Central
Tony & Charlene Bonilla
Joshua & Tabetha Coltrain
William & Jean Mason
Travis & Erica Arb

Training Letter

Jennifer Meyer, Foster Care Training Coordinator

Looking for a good read that will count for training hours? Check out the Youthville Foster Care Library! We have a library that has many books on a variety of topics, as well as some videos. These resources are free for foster homes to check out. If you would like to learn more about what is available in the library, look on the foster parent secured Web site by going to www.youthville.org and selecting "Foster Family Login." The list of the library items is listed in the "Training" tab. Featured additions to the library:

Have you heard about the Conscious Discipline® training being offered to Youthville families? This training is based around curriculum that Dr. Becky Bailey developed. There are two books that we have added to our library that are referenced in the training and are authored by Dr. Bailey.

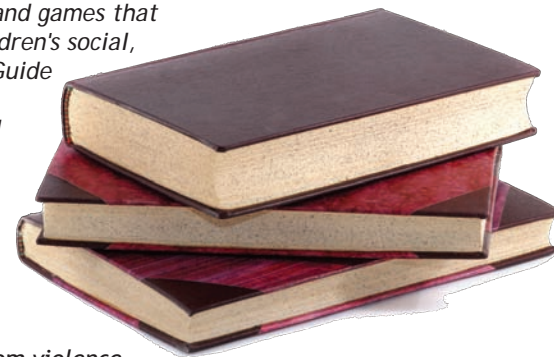
Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline: The 7 Basic Skills for Turning Conflict into Cooperation
A developmental psychology specialist and early childhood education expert, Bailey contends that the difficult but rewarding task of guiding children's behavior starts only when parents are able to discipline themselves and become models of self control. Bailey dismisses the familiar fear-inspired approach to discipline many grew up with (including threats and punishment), claiming that it inevitably leads children to make biologically driven choices and may even effect the brain due to the high levels of stress hormones released. Also rejecting the permissive parenting style now popular that favors "reasoning" (which, according to the author, imbues children with a victim mentality), Bailey instead promotes instilling an awareness of misbehavior through communication. Though some may be put off by the gimmicky overuse of slogans and buzz words, Bailey's underlying message is positive and hopeful, supported with humorous anecdotes and helpful solutions to even chronic discipline problems.

I Love You Rituals

I Love You Rituals offers more than 70 delightful rhymes and games that send the message of unconditional love and enhances children's social, emotional and school success. Winner of a 1999 Parent's Guide Children's Media Award, these positive nursery rhymes, interactive finger plays and soothing games can be played with children from infancy through age eight. In only minutes a day, these powerful rituals can:

- Prime a child's brain for learning
- Help children cope with change
- Enhance attention, cooperation and self-esteem
- Help busy families stay close
- Affirm the parent-child bond that insulates children from violence, peer pressure and drugs, and much more.

Easy to learn and especially effective in stressful situations, I Love You Rituals gives parents, grandparents, caregivers and teachers inspiring tools to help children thrive!
(Reviews provided by www.amazon.com).



If you would like to check these or any of the other great products out from the library, please contact your foster care staff!

Jennifer Meyer | Foster Care Training Coordinator

Thanks for the support!

Youthville would like to thank K-LOVE 97.3 (KLRX) in Kansas City, Mo. which ran a series of five advertisements in support of Youthville.



K-LOVE is a contemporary Christian music radio station operated by EMF Broadcasting. Stations in Kansas include: 97.7 Atchison, 91.9 (KWBI) Great Bend, 93.5 Hutchinson, 88.9 (KGLV) Manhattan/Topeka and 99.1 (KTLI) Wichita. For more information, go to: www.klove.com

Area updates

Southwest Update

Denita Young, previously an activities coordinator on the Dodge City campus, began working with us in January as a foster care worker. Please give her a warm welcome!

Dates are set for Matt Johnson, Church Relations Manager, to accompany our recruiter to churches as we continue to meet with community partners in the area.

Finally, we are pleased with the Carswells, our new home in Liberal! They are looking forward to finding a special little girl to complete their foster-to-adopt home. And, we have two transfers to the Southwest area! The Beerys and the Koehns. Please join me in welcoming them!

William Purdy | Southwest FC Supervisor

Northwest Update

When a family decides to foster, they have an idea of a “perfect child” who would do well in their home. It is great that families spend time thinking of the type of child they could help, however, I have found that after taking several placements, the resource parents’ preferences may change based on their experiences. I have talked with my staff (and hopefully they are communicating to you) about stepping outside of “normal” placements. This could mean trying one that is older or younger, another race, has behaviors you have not dealt with before or you could try a sibling group. This could happen through respite, trying a pre-placement visit or by taking in a child that needs a home today. Some of the most successful placements over the years are ones whose resource parents took them in even though it was not “normal.” One resource parent I worked with had adolescent/teen girls, had a lot of success and felt very comfortable working with them. One day, they received a call that a placement’s niece was coming into custody and needed a home. The resource parents normally did not take young children, but said yes so as to keep the family together. Several years later, the resource parents adopted these young ladies and made their home a permanent one! If you are interested, visit with your foster care worker today!

Amy M. Tuttle, LMSW | NW FC Supervisor

Wichita/Wellington Update

I would like to thank all of our resource parents for the work they do everyday with our children! And, I want to highlight Charles and Dea Northcutt who not only take wonderful care of the children in their home, but are also great mentors and built a very good relationship with the birth parents of four siblings in their home. The birth parents and Ms. Northcutt attend the children’s doctors visits together, go to community activities, speak on the phone almost daily, and Northcutts even invited the parents into their home. The birth parents appreciate the support of the Northcutts so much that when the baby became sick on a visit to its parents, they contacted Ms. Northcutt to come with them to the emergency room. The children got to go home at the end of February! What a wonderful resource the birth parents and children have in this resource family!

Finally, Stacey Winter, former foster care supervisor, has left to pursue a new position. She will be with Youthville as the assistant director on the Newton campus. She will be missed, but we wish her well in her new position!

Heather Underkofler, LBSW | Interim Foster Care Supervisor

Northeast Update

Congratulations to Rob and Brooksie Childers who finalized the adoption of their darling little girl, Mikayla, on February 17. Please join us in wishing them well! Also, we are in the process of looking for families in Northeast Kansas who may be interested in providing emergency care to children (primarily police protective custody). If you are interested in providing this care to Northeast area children, please call 913.390.7816.

We are proud to announce that we are in the final stages of becoming a licensed child placing agency in Missouri! This has been a challenging and lengthy process and we hope to be licensed this month. A great big thank you goes to the Missouri families who have taken MAPP classes and have waited patiently for us to license and serve them. And, thanks goes to Luci Monares, Director of Licensing, who has worked tirelessly on this project from the start.

Shane Miller, Visitation Support Worker, has joined our office to provide services to the children placed in our area and is a very welcome addition! Please join us in welcoming Shane to our team! Finally, I welcome your comments in regards to our services. Please feel free to stop in or give us a call at any time. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our children!

Linda O’Neal, LMSW | NE FC Project Manager

South Central Update

South Central started a PS-MAPP class in Newton at the end of January. We have five families enrolled in the class. We also hope to start PA-MAPP classes in Hutchinson and Pratt in the spring. Also, South Central has two staff (Lisa Winchester and Jason Kelly) who have been trained to teach First Aid and CPR. And, South Central will be providing a few Saturday options for the foster parent support meeting. The Saturday trainings are typically four hours long which will replace the 90 minute support meeting during the week.

During the month of January, South Central completed four home studies. We also have had two families sign APA for the children in their home!

Tammy Gream, LMSW | SC FC Supervisor

North Central Update

Crystal Ehler, Recruitment Specialist, has been working hard! Since October, our area has six new homes, one waiting to be licensed, two families almost done with DT class and another is beginning in Salina with three families. Also, Youthville water bottles have been given to six schools to sell during basketball games. We hope that more families will learn about Youthville’s mission!

Mary Reed, LMSW
NC FC Supervisor

Becoming a part of the family

Helping your foster child transition to your adopted child

Child Welfare Information Gateway: www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_transition.cfm

For foster families who choose to adopt the child or children in their care, there are a number of ways to help these children make the emotional transition from being “a ward of the state or the court” to being “a son or daughter” of specific parents.

While parents may appreciate the difference in the child’s role within their family, children may not clearly comprehend the difference between being a foster child versus being an adopted child when they continue to live in the same family. There are specific things families can say and do to help children understand these differences.

Talking with children about the changes

In preparing to talk to children about the changes that occur with adoption, parents and other caring adults in children’s lives should remember to engage the child in the process and listen carefully to the words the child uses and to the questions the child asks. Questions about the birth family and their status may need to be addressed. It is important to always tell the truth—even if it is painful—and to validate the child’s experience and feelings.

While these talks may bring up painful feelings for children, and for parents who love them, helping children to grieve can also help them to move on to a feeling of permanency in their foster/adoptive family. Talks between parents and children about the differences in status within the foster family and the adoptive family will probably need to be repeated several times and in a variety of ways, so children can understand at their own level. It is best if these conversations take place when the parent and child are engaged in activities together. Adoption professional H. Craig-Oldsen (1988) offers the following suggestions for making these talks beneficial for the child:

- Plan the discussion in collaboration with the social worker. The parents should decide if they want to talk with the child first and have the social worker reinforce what was said in a later conversation, or if they would like to talk to the child together about the change from being in foster care to being adopted. Parents should be prepared to answer the child’s questions that may be raised by the discussion.
- Help the child talk about the perceived difference in his or her own words. The parents should ask open-ended questions of the child such as, “How do you think being adopted will be different from being in foster care?” or “What do you think the biggest difference will be when you are adopted?”
- Help the child draw analogies to something in the child’s own life. For instance, “This is like the time when...”

There are a number of changes in status that will affect the child, and these should be discussed, depending on the child’s developmental level.

1. To help the child understand the legal differences between foster care and adoption, foster parents might talk about how the adoption court hearing is different from other court hearings the child might have remembered from foster care.

Some parents may explain adoption by using marriage as an analogy. The court hearing is like the marriage ceremony, and the adoption certificate is like the marriage certificate that makes the relationship legal and permanent. (*Parents who use this analogy should be prepared for questions about divorce.*)

2. Older children who are aware of the foster care board payment or adoption assistance their parents receive might be helped to understand the financial differences inherent in foster care and adoption. These payments might be compared to a child’s allowance; older children may be able to understand the payments as costs to meet the child’s needs. Experienced adoptive parents note the importance of honesty, compassion and developmental appropriateness in conversations with children regarding these issues (Laws, 2004).

3. To help children understand the parenting differences between foster care and adoption, parents might remind the child that when in foster care, the parents had to get a permission slip signed by an agency social worker to go on a field trip, spend the night at a friend’s house, or travel across state lines; now that their foster parents are their legal parents, the parents can sign permissions for these types of things without needing to go through an agency or court.

One way to explain the changes from foster care to adoption is to talk about the roles that different parents play in the child’s life. (See below.)

Aspects/Roles of parenting for children in placement

Birth parents—give children life, gender, physical appearance, predisposition for certain diseases, intellectual potential, temperament and talents. These aspects never change.

Legal parents—provide financial responsibility, safety, and security; make major decisions (where to live and go to school), and are legally responsible for the child’s actions. While children are in foster care, the court/agency plays this role with a child. Upon adoption of a foster child, this role is transferred to the adoptive parents.

Parenting parents—provide love, discipline, daily needs (food, clothes, toys, etc.), homework help, transportation, life skills, values, religion, and more. Foster and adoptive parents play this role in the child welfare system. If children are in residential care, this role might be played by house parents or childcare workers (Fahlberg, 1991).

Helping Children Understand Their Own History

Parents can help children review and understand their previous life experiences to clarify what happened to them in the past and help them integrate those experiences so they will have greater self-understanding. Foster/adoptive parents and children’s therapists and social workers can help children in answering important questions about their lives—both to assess their readiness for and to prepare them for staying permanently in their family. Questions for children to assess where they are on the permanency continuum (Henry, 2005)

- Who am I? (question related to identity)
- What happened to me? (question related to loss)
- Where am I going? (question related to attachment)
- How will I get there? (question related to relationships)
- When will I know I belong? (question related to claiming/safety)

Children's answers to these questions will change depending on their developmental stage. Their responses can guide parents and therapists in helping the children achieve feelings of permanency.

There are many ways families can help children in answering these important questions and in understanding their unique history. Life books, ecomaps, lifemaps and lifepaths are all tools used by foster/adoptive parents and children's therapists to help children of various ages understand and find ways to visually represent the answers to questions of how they came to be separated from their birth family and where they will ultimately belong (Fahlberg, 1991).

Lifebook An account of the child's life in words, pictures, photographs and documents. Foster parents can assist in creating a lifebook for a child by gathering information about a child and taking pictures of people and places that are—or were—important to the child. Possible items to collect/include in a child's lifebook

- Developmental milestones (first smile, walk, etc.)
- Common childhood diseases and immunizations, injuries, illnesses or hospitalizations
- Pictures of a child's birth parents and/or birth relatives and information about visits
- Members of the foster family's extended family who were/are important to the child
- Pictures of previous foster families, homes and pets
- Names of teachers, schools, report cards and school activities
- Any special activities such as scouting, clubs or camping
- Faith-based activities
- What a child did when he/she was happy or excited
- Cute things the child did, nicknames, friends and toys
- Birthdays, religious celebrations or any trips taken with the foster family (Fahlberg, 1991)

Ecomap A visual representation of a person and the important people and activities in his or her life. A child's ecomap may have a circle in the middle of the page with a stick figure of a child, along with the question "Why am I here?" Lines are drawn out from the circle like spokes to other circles representing the court, other foster families, siblings, school, or to other topics such as "things I like to do" to visually represent what and who is important to a child and to help the child understand how he or she came to live with the adoptive family (Fahlberg, 1991).

Lifemaps or Lifepaths Visual representations to help children understand the paths their lives have taken and the decision points along the way. They may have stepping stones to represent a child's age and a statement about where and with whom they lived at that age. They may have lines that go to a drawing of a house representing any foster homes a child lived in, the years the child lived there, and a mention of who lived with the child at that house, if known.

The most important information to include in any of these tools to help children understand their past history is information about the child's birth and an explanation of why and how the child entered foster care and how decisions about moves and new placements were made. A baby picture and pictures of

birth parents should be included, if possible. If no information is available, children can draw a picture of what they might have looked like. Statements such as, "there is no information about Johnny's birth father in his file," at least acknowledge the father's existence. The importance of honesty, developmental appropriateness and compassion in any explanation of difficult and painful circumstances that bring children into care is important for children.

Working with these tools provides an opportunity for the child to experience and work through the feelings of loss, therefore, they are beneficial therapeutic methods to help children with the grieving process.

Helping Children Adjust to Losses

Adoption experts acknowledge the importance of helping children integrate their previous attachments to important people in their lives in order to be able to transition that emotional attachment to a new family (Donley, 1988; Fahlberg, 1991; Henry, 2005). Integration is a way of helping children cope with the painful realities of the separation from their birth families that often impact their future behaviors and can create extraordinary stress between them and their foster/adoptive parents. The five-step integration process, first described by adoption pioneer K. Donley (1988), is an effort to clarify the child's permission to be in foster care, to live with new parents, to be loved by them, and to love them back.



Steps in the Integration Process:

- Create an accurate reconstruction of the child's entire placement history. Creating a lifebook, lifemap, or ecomap with a child helps them see and understand his or her own history.
- Identify the important attachment figures in the child's life. Foster parents might be able to learn who these important people in a child's life are by listening to the child talk about people from previous placements. These attachment figures might be parents, but they could be siblings, former foster parents, or other family members.
- Gain the cooperation of the most significant of the attachment figures available. If possible, parents should cooperate with the birth mother during a child's visits or gain the cooperation of a birth grandparent or relative to whom the child was attached. Even if the birth family is not happy about a child's permanency goal of adoption, there is likely to be one important person (a teacher, a former neighbor) who will be willing to work with foster/adoptive parents or the agency to make a child's transition to adoption easier.






March Training Dates

Check the training calendar on the foster care Web site for up-to-date info at www.youthville.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Ethics in Foster Care Rose Alderson 8:30-12:00pm (Hutchinson)
8 Daylight Savings Time 	9 Love & Logic 1 of 4 Shannon Reed 7:00-9:00pm (Colby)	10 Stress & Burnout Mark Blakeslee 1:00-3:00pm (Great Bend) Love & Logic 1 of 4 Shannon Reed 6:00-8:00pm (Beloit) Building on Strengths- Developing Resiliency Rose Alderson 6:30-8:30pm (Garden City)	11	12	13	14
15	16 Runaways Risa Rhemert 6:30-8:00pm (Wichita)	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 Working Through Conflict Beth Randall 6:30-8:00pm(Wellington) Building on Strengths- Developing Resiliency Rose Alderson 6:30-8:30 (Dodge City)	20	21
22 Ethics in Foster Care Rose Alderson 2:00-5:00pm (Concordia)	23	24 Underage Town Hall Meeting Stand Together Coalition 6:00-8:00pm (Wichita)	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April Training Dates

Check the training calendar on the foster care Web site for up-to-date info at www.youthville.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Conscious Discipline Shana Schmidt 10:00-5:00pm (WaKeeney)
5	6	7 Resource Family Stress Rose Alderson 7:00-9:00pm (Hays)	8	9 Human Growth & Development Mark Blakeslee 6:30-8:30pm (Liberal)	10	11 Adolescent Chemical Dependency & PTSD Mark Blakeslee 10:00-2:00pm (Pratt)
12 Easter 	13 Love & Logic 2 of 4 Shannon Reed 7:00-9:00pm (Colby)	14 Love & Logic 3 of 4 Shannon Reed 6:00-8:00pm (Beloit) Partnering with Schools Rose Alderson 6:30-8:00pm (Newton) Human Growth & Development Mark Blakeslee 6:30-8:30pm (Newton)	15	16 Passover Human Growth & Development Mark Blakeslee 6:30-8:30pm (Dodge City)	17	18 Love & Logic Shannon Reed 9:00-4:00pm (Concordia)
19	20 Working Through Conflict Beth Randall 6:30-8:00pm (Wichita)	21	22 Earth Day 	23	24 Arbor Day 	25
26	27	28 Stress & Burnout Mark Blakeslee 6:30-8:00pm (Hutchinson)	29	30		

Family...

...continued

- Clarify the permission message. It is important for children to hear and feel from people who are important to them that it is all right to love another family. The important person in a child's life who is available to give the child that message should be sought out to do so.

- Communicating it to the child. Whether the "permission to love your family" comes in the form of a letter or phone call from grandma or from the birth parent during family visits, it is important that children hear from that person that it is not their fault they are in foster care and that it is all right to love another family. This "permission" will go a long way to helping a child relax and transfer his/her attachment to the new family (adapted from Donley, 1988).

In working with children during this transition phase, it will be important for parents and others working with the child to use the following skills (Henry, 2005).

- Engaging the child
- Listening to the child
- Telling the truth
- Validating the child's life story
- Creating a safe space for the child
- Realizing that it is never too late to go back in time
- Embracing pain as part of the process

Helping Children Transfer Attachments

Once it is clear that a child will be adopted by the foster family, there are many things parents can do to signal to a child that his or her status within the family has changed. Some of these include:

- Encouraging the child to start calling the adoptive parents "mom" and "dad"
- Adding a middle name to incorporate a name of family significance
- Hanging pictures of the child on the wall
- Involving the child in family reunions and similar extended family activities
- Including the child in family rituals
- Holding religious or other ceremonies to incorporate the child into the family
- Making statements such as, "In our family, we do it this way" in a supportive way
- Sending out announcements of the adoption

Other foster/adoptive parents can be a great resource for families. The National Foster Care & Adoption Directory has a list of foster and adoptive support groups in each state. Go to www.childwelfare.gov/nfcad.

Questionnaire

Helping your foster child transition to your adopted child

After reading the training article, a resource home may respond to the questions below and return the form for half-hour training credit. Each parent wishing to receive credit must complete their own separate form. Please be sure to print your name and sign at the bottom.

1. True or False It is important to be honest with the child when there are questions about the birth family.
2. Suggestions to help make conversations about the differences between foster care and adoption are:
 - A. Help the children talk about the perceived differences
 - B. Plan the discussion
 - C. Help the child draw analogies
 - D. All the above
3. List two examples of how a parent might create an accurate reconstruction of the child's history.

4. True or False Steps in the integration process include clarify the permission message and communicating the permission message to the child?
5. An ecomap is a visual representation of a person and:
 - A. Important people in their life
 - B. Activities in their life
 - C. Both A & B

6. List two examples of items that can be included in a lifebook

7. True or False Parenting parents are foster and adoptive parents for children in the child welfare system.
8. What did you find helpful in this article?
9. How will you use the information in your home?
10. What topics would you like to see future newsletter articles cover?

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

To receive credit, please return your completed form to:

Youthville
Attn: Jennifer Meyer
PO Box 210
Newton, KS 67114

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you receive duplicate mailings,
please call 316.283.1950, ext. 6129.
Thank you for your help!

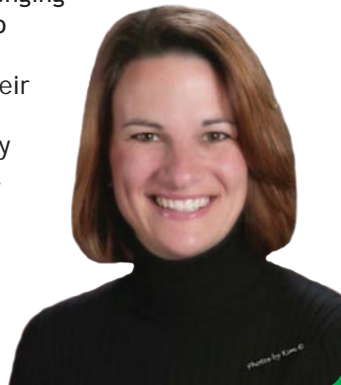
Conscious Discipline®

A free workshop for Youthville parents and foster parents, especially those of special needs kids, with certified Conscious Discipline® instructor Shana Schmidt!

Saturday, April 4, 2009
WCEA Community Room
635 S 13th St | WaKeeney, KS

Conscious Discipline® is a research-based, comprehensive intelligence behavior management system that allows adults to set the tone for optimal learning of social and cognitive skills. It teaches effective strategies for working with children that exhibit more challenging behaviors. Children are taught to identify their goals, actions and the resulting consequences of their choices, ultimately learning to manage their emotions in socially acceptable and productive ways.

To sign up, please contact:
Jennifer Meyer, Foster Care
Training Coordinator
316.283.1950 ext. 6323
jmeyer@youthville.org



QM Connection

Youthville is once again conducting satisfaction surveys as a measure of your satisfaction with our program, and it also allows us to assess ourselves. By participating in the satisfaction survey, your representative voice as a resource parent is heard and this allow us the opportunity to improve our services to you and the foster children in your home. There are three pieces to the survey:

- Foster Care Worker Survey - Questions about the support and services you receive from your foster care worker.
- Case Management Team Survey - Focuses on contracting agency of the child currently placed or placed within the last six months in your home. We have included two surveys to allow for more than one agency or case management team to be assessed.
- Resource Parent Contact Form - Complete if you have concerns or questions not addressed in the survey.

You will receive your survey soon!