

southern connections

Covering Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties

www.fafsonline.org

WHO'S WATCHING THE KIDS?

by Janis Nietzer, *President*

The Babysitting Policy is in place to help resource parents attend to important matters outside the home while ensuring the children in their care are safe and properly supervised.

"I think it is a great help to resource parents to have reasonable guidelines to refer to, as opposed to conflicting and arbitrary information, when circumstances require the use of a babysitter," says James Chester, Director of Support Services. "I'm sure that use of the guidelines will relieve the frustration and anxiety some resource parents feel on those occasions when they need someone to care for their children in placement for a short period of time."

As specified in the Manual of Requirements for Resource Family Parents, Subchapter 6, Resource Family Home Program Requirements, Section 10:122C-6.1, Supervision of Children in Placement, (a) 1 and 2, Level 1 supervision requirements are:

1. The resource family parent shall ensure the supervision of each child in placement, as appropriate to the child's age and particular needs, at all times.
2. The resource family parent shall be reachable by telephone in the event of an emergency or illness when the child in placement or resource family is not in the home.

Resource parents should be aware that reimbursements are made at a flat rate of \$8.00 per hour for babysitting expenses when the reason for the resource parent's absence from the home is an activity directly related to foster parenting, such as attendance at Child Placement Reviews, DYFS

Case Conferences or meetings, court hearings, school conferences, or medical/dental appointments for children in care. The babysitting may be for the resource parent's own children and/or children in foster care in the home.

Some resource parents needing a responsible babysitter may not need to look outside their own home. If agreed upon by a child's case worker and the child him/herself, resource parents may allow an appropriately mature child in foster care to babysit other children in foster care in the home, as well as the resource parent's own children. Not only would this show of trust boost the child in care's self-esteem, but it would also provide him or her with the experience of helping out in the home and caring for siblings that other children his or her age share.

"In order for resource families to fulfill their responsibility to provide as normal a family experience as possible for children placed in their home, they must have liberty, in certain situations, to use their judgment and make decisions; after all these children live in the resource family's home," says Chester.

Good babysitters can be difficult to find, so if you've found a reliable and competent babysitter, please share this information with your fellow resource parents. If you are a resource parent with questions about the Babysitting Policy, please call the FAFS Hotline at 800.222.0047 or contact your RFA.

To view the complete
Babysitting Policy online, please visit
<http://www.fafsonline.org/PDF/baby.pdf>

OUR

The mission of Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) is to provide support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster, adoptive and kinship families, who provide safe, stable, and nurturing homes for children in foster care.

MEETING INFORMATION: FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2010

OUR ANNUAL MEETING IS MARCH 13TH AT 9:00 AM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 1.800.222.0047 OR VISIT WWW.FAFSONLINE.ORG.

Atlantic County: *Chair, Vacant*

Location for All Meetings:
Galloway Township Library
306 East Jimmie Leeds Rd.
Galloway, NJ 08205
Time of All Meetings: 6:00 p.m.

Date: February 17, 2010
Speaker: Beverly McCall, Attorney
Topic: The Adoption Process: From Termination to Finalization
Amount of In-Service Hours: 1.5 hours

Atlantic County Chair Needed
Call 1.800.222.0047

Date: March 9, 2010
Speaker: Child Passenger Safety Technician
Topic: Child Passenger Safety
Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Date: April 27, 2010
Speaker: Patricia Ross, Program Manager
Topic: Creative Community Option Program
Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Camden County: *Chair, Dolores Cummings*

Location of All Meetings:
Camden DYFS Local Office
4 Echelon Plaza, 201 Laurel Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043
Time of All Meetings: 6:00 p.m.

Date: February 16, 2010 - **CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**
Speaker: Child Passenger Safety Specialist
Topic: Child Passenger Safety
Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours
Looking for non-cash donations, such as backpacks, tickets, etc.?
Inquire at your local meeting.

Date: March 9, 2010
Speaker: Laura Kay and Ramona Carmeci, Family Support Center Representatives
Topic: Overview of NJ Family Support Center
Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Date: April 13, 2010
Note: Business meeting only.
No training scheduled.

Cape May County: *Co-Chairs, Susan J. Morris and Cynthia A. Vantrieste*

Location of All Meetings:
Cape May Local DYFS Office
Court House Commons Building B
601 Rt. 9 South
Cape May Court House, NJ 08204
Time of All Meetings: 6:45 p.m.

Date: February 22, 2010
Speaker: Beverly McCall, Attorney
Topic: Adoption Process: From Termination to Finalization
Amount of In-Service Hours: 1.5 hours

Date: March 29, 2010
Speaker: Patricia Ross, AtlantiCare Behavioral Health Program Manager
Topic: Creative Community Option Program
Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Date: April 26, 2010
Speaker: Child Passenger Safety Technician
Topic: Child Passenger Safety
Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Cumberland County: *Co-Chairs, Wendy Baptiste and Annie Mae Jeffers Brady*

Location of All Meetings:
YMCA of Vineland
1159 East Landis Ave.
Vineland, NJ 08360
Time of All Meetings: 6:00 p.m.

Date: February 25, 2010
Speaker: Patricia Ross, Program Manager
Topic: Creative Community Options Program
Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Have questions?
Call 1.800.222.0047
or visit www.fafsonline.org

Date: March 25, 2010
Speaker: Beverly McCall, Attorney
Topic: The Adoption Process: From Termination to Finalization
Amount of In-Service Hours: 1.5 hours

Date: April 22, 2010
Speaker: Beth Taylor, FAFS Trainer
Topic: Understanding Child Development: Helping Children Be All They Can Be
Amount of In-Service Hours: 3 hours

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is published quarterly by Foster and Adoptive Family Services. Story ideas and comments may be sent to FAFS, 4301 Route 1 South, PO Box 518, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852 or e-mail to: mawrachow@fafsonline.org

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Printed by Princetonian Graphics

Funding for this newsletter is provided by the NJ Dept. of Children & Families, Division of Youth and Family Services.

MEETING INFORMATION: FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2010

CONTINUED

Gloucester County: *Co-Chairs, Cynthia Glover and Theresa Brown-Glover*

Location of All Meetings:

Mantua Methodist Church
201 Mantua Blvd.
Mantua, NJ 08081

Time of All Meetings: 7:00 p.m.

Date: February 22, 2010

Speaker: Teresa Dimitri, Community Outreach Specialist

Topic: Overview of The Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem County Family Support Organization

Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Date: April 26, 2010

Speaker: Beth Taylor, FAFS Trainer

Topic: Understanding Child Development

Amount of In-Service Hours: 3 hours

Date: March 29, 2010

Speaker: Child Passenger Safety Specialist

Topic: Child Passenger Safety

Amount of In-Service Hours: 2 hours

Salem County: *Chair, Bonnie Stevens*

Location of All Meetings:

Quinton United Methodist Church
Rt 49 Main Street
Quinton NJ 08072

Time of All Meetings: 6:00 p.m.

Date: February 9, 2010

Note: Business meeting only.

No training scheduled.

Traci Harrell, Recruiter will be present.

Please bring a friend.

Date: April 13, 2010

Speaker: Beth Taylor, FAFS Trainer

Topic: From X-ray Vision to Carrots to BMI's, Dealing with Childhood Obesity

Amount of In-Service Hours: 3 hours

Note: This meeting ends at 9:00 p.m.

Date: March 9, 2010

Speaker: Dana Woods Fried, NJ ARCH Asst. Director

Topic: The Basics of Special Education in NJ

Amount of In-Service Hours: 1.5 hours

Important Training Note: These are all very short trainings - please arrive promptly in order to receive the training hours. All meeting/training information is provided by each county and is accurate as of December 30, 2009. In the event that dates, times or locations change, FAFS will contact you through the mail to alert you of these alterations. In case of inclement weather, please call your local volunteer committee chairperson or call FAFS at 1.800.222.0047 to see if the meeting/training is still being held. Due to budgetary constraints, FAFS will no longer be able to reimburse licensed resource parents \$20 at a county-based workshop. However, FAFS is increasing training opportunities in order for you to meet licensure requirements.



Toll-Free Hotline

1.800.222.0047

Web site: www.fafsonline.org

Contracted Services Provided by FAFS

Toll-Free Hotline
Advocacy/Support Services
Liaison/Mediation Services
Information Resources
Referral Services
Education/Training
Public Awareness/Recruitment
Scholarship Fund
Community Based Support

Programs Funded by Private Donations

Independent Living
and Academic Scholarships
Camp Scholarships
Fostering Wishes for Children
County Based Support
A Holiday Celebration for Every Child
Bedtime for Children in Care
Backpack Program

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UPCOMING events

**March 13:
FAFS Annual
Meeting**

**May 1:
Kentucky Derby
Day**

**May 8:
Annual
Recognition
Awards Brunch**

Log on to
www.fafsonline.org for
nomination forms



PO Box 518
4301 Route 1 South
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
Hotline: 1.800.222.0047
Web site: www.fafsonline.org

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YOU'RE INVITED!

by Lynn Patmalnee, *Special Projects Coordinator*

Foster & Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) cordially invites our members to join us for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 13th, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Monroe, 390 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the meeting starts promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Learn about FAFS' many accomplishments last year, and be the first to know about our upcoming events and activities as we share our plans for 2010.

Door prizes will be awarded, and refreshments will be served. Seating is limited, so please call 800.222.0047 to RSVP by Monday, March 8, 2010. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please call the Hotline at 800.222.0047 or visit our website, www.fafsonline.org.

FAFS partners with the United Way -- FAFS is able to receive donations through United Way. You can donate to FAFS by either listing our name -*Foster and Adoptive Family Services* or our United Way number- 715170 on the donation form. If your employer participates in the United Way's annual community campaign, when you give, please don't forget to list FAFS as your charity of choice.

Visit www.fafsonline.org and click on 'Ways to Help' or the 'Please Donate' button for ways to support FAFS or visit the FAFS Foundation web site www.fafsfoundation.org.