



MAS Social Worker Newsletter

May 2010

May is National Foster Care Month!

Supporting Foster Children in the Classroom

“Be aware that children and youth in care generally tend to perform less well in school than their peers. Thirty to forty percent of youth in foster care are also in special education, so your student may already have an IEP or may need one.

Determine the student’s academic, social and emotional level and then find ways to help him or her fit into the class by using accommodations and adaptations to support educational success.

Respect the child’s right to privacy. Students and teachers who do not have responsibility for teaching the child do not need to know about his or her foster care status.

Become knowledgeable about confidentiality and how to address confidential issues appropriately.

Broaden the diversity of families depicted in the books and materials in your classroom to include foster, adoptive, and relative care giving families.”

(Excerpt from: *What Teachers and Educators Can Do to Help Youth in Foster Care*;
www.fostercaremonth.org)

Mandated Reporter Law

The State of Wisconsin requires individuals who work in certain professions to report child abuse and neglect.

Who Must Report? Any of the following individuals who “has reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen by the person in the course of professional duties has been abused or neglected; or who has reason to believe that a child seen by the person in the course of professional duties has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect of the child will occur” must report:

Social worker, school teacher, school administrator, school counselor, physician, nurse, dentist, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, occupational therapist, day care provider, dietician, speech-language pathologist, police or law enforcement officer, alcohol or other drug abuse counselor, medical or mental health professional in residential care

If you suspect abuse or neglect call (414) 220-SAFE

A complete list of mandated reporters can be found in Wis. Stat. 48.981(2)(a))

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Foster Care Facts

- The amount of time a child stays in foster care can vary from as little as a few days to a number of years.
- Most children in foster care will return home in less than three months, however some children are still in foster care after three years.
- On average, 7,000 children in the state of Wisconsin will be placed with these foster families.
- On a typical day, approximately 8,000 children are living with foster families.
- In order to become a foster parent, you must be 21 years of age or older and a responsible adult. For more information on the foster care program in Wisconsin or becoming a foster parent, please call 1-800-947-8074, contact your local county social/human service department or visit dhs.wisconsin.gov

Books about Child Abuse, Neglect, and Foster Care

I Don't Want to Go to Justin's House Anymore

(By: Heather Klassen; ages 4-8)

When I Was Little Like You

(By: Jane Porrett; ages 4-8)

My Foster Family: A Story for Children Entering Foster Care

(By: Jennifer Levine; ages 5-11)

Bobbie's Story: A Feelings Workbook

(By: Brennan Mars; ages 5-10)

Quote of the Month

“A child is the jury before which our civilization must stand. The way we treat our children, and what we pass on to our children, says volumes about who we are as a people.” **Unknown**

Together We Can!

MAS let's make these last few weeks of school really count! Some of our students have a rough summer ahead of them!

For more information about the contents of this newsletter, contact your MAS School Social Worker, Ginger King, MSW, LCSW, CAMT
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