



# Fostering Across Wisconsin

A publication of the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center  
in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

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This edition of *Fostering Across Wisconsin* focuses on  
**Foster & Adoptive Parent Training**

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## Good News!

### Foster Parent Training Mandate Passes Budget Process

Until recently, Wisconsin was one of seven states in the nation that did not have a training mandate for all foster parents. This year despite facing a budget deficit, the funding to support a foster parent training mandate was approved. By 2011 a full statewide program to provide foster parent training will be in effect.

Since 2005, a committee made up of social workers and foster parents have been working to create a curriculum and make recommendations about how to implement consistent foster parent training that is accessible for everyone.

The committee took into consideration the various barriers to training: sizes and resources of counties and agencies, locations of homes, childcare, family schedules, etc., and came up with materials that can be used in a large group format as well as individually in a foster parent's home.

In addition, the committee recognized a need to break training into in three phases because learning and development is an ongoing process.

The three phases of foster parent are:

- **Pre-Placement:** To be completed prior to the placement of the first child in a family's home. Time investment = approximately 6-15 hours.
- **Foundation:** To be completed within first period of licensure. Time Investment = approximately 30 hours.
- **On-going** To be completed every year of a foster parent license. Time Investment = varies according to certification level.

Although the work of the committee is far from done, they've already helped to move this issue through the legislative process. This was also something that Wisconsin's Youth Advisory Council felt strongly about and presented to legislators.

As Sir Francis Bacon said, "knowledge is power!" Acquiring knowledge through education opportunities provides you with the tools to empower you to be the best possible parent that you can be.

Thanks to the Governor and the Wisconsin legislature, this learning opportunity will now be available for all families in years to come!

*Live Deeper. Love Wider. Leave Bigger.  
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## What are some of the latest resources in training?

**T**rauma is currently a hot topic, and includes some of the following resources:

- **Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control: A Love-Based Approach to Helping Attachment-Challenged Children With Severe Behaviors** by Heather T. Forbes  
While scientifically based in research, it is written in an easy to understand format for anyone working with or parenting children with severe behaviors. The last chapters are individually devoted to behaviors typically seen with attachment-challenged children (lying, stealing, hoarding, defiance, etc.).

Heather Forbes will be presenting in November at an adoption conference in the Dells. For more information, contact, Leann Meiners at [lmeiners@wadopt.org](mailto:lmeiners@wadopt.org)
- **The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook: What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us About Loss, Love, and Healing** by Bruce Perry and Maia Szalavitz

Child psychiatrist Bruce Perry has treated children faced with unimaginable horror. Here he tells their stories of trauma and transformation.

*Both books available from the FCARC library.*
- **FCARC's tipsheet, Working with Children Who Have Been Traumatized:**  
<http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org/snnav/336/page.htm>
- **The Child Welfare Traumatic Stress Network** is a collaboration of academic and community-based service centers whose mission is to raise the standard of care and increase access to services for traumatized children and their families. <http://nctsn.org>

### Internet Safety

- **Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway: Rules and Tools for Families Online:**  
<http://www.childrenspartnership.org>
- **NetSmartz** provides resources for parents and guardians, educators, law enforcement, teens and kids and in addition, there is a Spanish online resource: <http://www.netsmartz.org>
- **FCARC's Internet Safety Tipsheet:**  
<http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org/library/392/internetsafety.pdf>

### Sexualized Children

- **Parenting Children Who Are Sexualized**, an Adoption Resources of Wisconsin tipsheet  
<http://wadopt.org/library/803/parentingchildrenwhoaresexualized.pdf>
- **Parenting A Child Who Has Been Sexually Abused: A Guide for Foster and Adoptive Parents** from the Child Welfare Information Gateway <http://childwelfare.gov>
- **The FCARC library** has many books on sexualized children. Contact us at: [info@wifostercareandadopt.org](mailto:info@wifostercareandadopt.org) or call us at: 800-947-8074.



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## Where Can I Get Training?

**H**ere is a list of organizations that provide training for foster and adoptive parents.

### Wisconsin Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (FCARC)

[www.wifostercareandadoption.org](http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org)

1-800-947-8074

We're here for you! We provide:

- **Website resources** for foster and adoptive parents, social workers and youth, as well as toll free telephone access. The website also has a "training" section, which
- **Calendar** of upcoming training and events
- **Tip sheets** for families and youth with links to relevant resources.
- **Getting started packets**, with great stories of inspiration.
- **Resource library**, with one of the largest collections of adoption and foster care resources in the state. This collection includes books, electronic media, and educational materials. You can order up to six items (for a handling fee of \$2.00, which includes return postage-paid envelopes) for a three-week period.

### Wisconsin Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARCs)

1-800-9989609

<http://wiadopt.org/site/indexer/382/content.htm>

This Wisconsin initiative offers support throughout the state, including information about various trainings.

### WFAPA, Wisconsin Association of Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.

[www.wfapa.org](http://www.wfapa.org)

Wisconsin's chapter of the National Foster and Adoptive Parent Association offers training at their state conferences. They also provide information about upcoming national, state, and regional training events and conferences. You can find contact information for the WFAPA group in your area on their website.

### Wisconsin Child Welfare Training Partnerships, of the University of Wisconsin,

<http://www.wcwts.wisc.edu>

The partnerships provide child welfare training throughout the state—some trainings are offered for parents and workers together.

### We want your input!

Please contact us at the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center when you're looking for:

- A specific training
- Suggestions for tipsheets or trainings
- Ways to be involved on committees
- Answers of all kinds. We don't know everything, but we will reach out to others and try to get you the answer you need.

Call us at: at: 800-947-8074 or contact us at: [info@wifostercareandadopt.org](mailto:info@wifostercareandadopt.org)



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## What's Up and Coming in Foster Care in Wisconsin?

**I**n addition to the Foster Parent Training Mandate (front page) created in the budget approved by Governor Jim Doyle, several other noteworthy foster care related items include:

- On January 1, 2010 there will be a 50% increase to the initial clothing allowance for each child when they enter foster care.
- On January 1, 2011 there will be a 5% increase to the Basic Foster Care Maintenance Rate for foster parents.
- There is also money to support a foster care public image campaign.
- Finally, the implementation of the Levels of Care, graduated foster care licensing initiative was approved.

Effective January 1, 2010, the Governor's budget also requires the Department of Children and Families to establish a single licensing code for all foster homes through a

**Levels of Care system** and includes the following components:

- Varying levels of licensing requirements and qualifications for foster parents
- Increased responsibilities or expectations for agencies
- Certification for particular types of care
- Placement matching of children in foster homes certified at the levels corresponding to the child's identified needs.

For all specified levels, foster parents will have to meet minimal safety requirements including background checks, an inspection of their home, and an understanding and ability to meet a child's identified needs. In the next issue of *Fostering Across Wisconsin*, we will have a detailed article about the changes coming with the *Levels of Care* graduated licensing initiative.

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**Services Provides:** Resource Library · Phone Support · Networking/Outreach

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