



LODESTAR
Family Connections Center

2320 N. 20th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006
(20th St. South of Thomas, 1/2 mile South of PCH)
602-254-2275 x 270
ppeixoto@lodestarfcc.org

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

New Trainings this Month:

***AZAFAP Town Hall- Education Advocacy for Foster & Adoptive Children August 10, 2006, 6:00-8:30pm**

Get the information and tools you need to help your child(ren) get the most out of school. We will cover topics such as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (special education) and 504 Plans. You will receive support and advocacy resources and insight from Sharon Dobbins, Educational Surrogate Parent Trainer and Education Consultant, and Nancy Williams, adoptive mother of 7 and special education teacher. To register, contact Russ Funk at rfunk@aask-az.org or by phone at 602-254-2275, ext 219. Limited childcare will be available for children up to age 14.

Meet Arizona's Children-Foster Care August 15, 2006, 11:30am-1:30pm

*The Lodestar Family Connections Center is partnering with DES to offer Meet Arizona's Children. This is an opportunity for foster families to get involved in the placement process at an earlier stage. Families that attend will see video presentations of children who are currently looking for placement and case managers or caregivers are there to answer your questions. Families can then fill out a form so that the child's case manager is notified directly that they are interested in more information or potentially taking placement of that child. The children presented will have current placement in a group home or shelter and DES is looking for a foster home. These children all still have a case plan of reunification, and are not legally free for adoption. If you are a licensed foster parent with room for a child or children in your home, then please call Peggy at 602-254-2275 x 270 to register to attend. **Limited child care will be available!** Registration is required and space is limited so call soon!*

*** Dr. Texidor -Attachment and the School Environment August 24, 2006 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Neuropsychologist, Dr. Alberto Texidor, returns in August for this informative training. Participants will learn information to help better recognize how attachment issues affect their child in the school environment. Participants will also gain information to help them work with the schools to establish boundaries and a school/classroom environment to help their child be academically successful. Registration is required. Please call Peggy at 602-254-2275 x270.

Baby Signs® Playgroup August 17, 2006, 10:00am-12:00pm

Did you miss the Baby Signs® training that we offered at the Lodestar Family Connections Center? Or did you attend and would love to get a hands-on start to using this program with your infant or toddler? Then come to our Playgroup! The Baby Signs® playgroup will be held in the center monthly beginning in August! There will be free play time as well as structured signing time. This is a great way to start or continue Baby Signs® which is the world's leading sign language program for babies. Research has proven that using signs actually enhances language, cognitive, and social-emotional development. This playgroup is also a great way to meet other foster and adoptive parents! Moms and/or Dads and children age birth to 5 years are welcome. Registration is required and limited. Please call Peggy at 602-254-2275 x270 to register.

All training noted with an * will provide credit for advance training hours for Foster Care Licensure.

Ongoing Training and Support:

***Adoption or Guardianship: What's the Difference? August 16, 2006 12:00-1:30pm**

*This 90 minute training is designed to help families make informed decisions when considering the possibility of adoption or permanent guardianship. **Child care and a meal will be provided at this training!** To register please call Corina Aguilar at 602-863-0799 x190.*



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Adoptive Parent Support Group August 19, 2006 2:00-4:00 p.m.

This is an ongoing parent support group for parents who have adopted older children. Registration is required. Contact Jessica at 602-254-2275 x235.

A-SNAP- AZ Special Needs Adoptive Parents Online Peer Support

A-SNAP is a newly formed Yahoo chat group created specifically by parents for parents and families who have adopted, or are planning to adopt a child or children in Arizona particularly those with special needs. This group shares resources, information and collects knowledge and is free to join! For more information email asnaps@yahoo.com and to join go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asnaps>.

Heaven Sent and Heaven Sent West Peer Support Groups

The goal of the Heaven Sent support groups is to provide a positive and friendly forum for adoptive and foster families to network and for fellowship activities. Heaven Sent also welcomes birthparents and adult adoptees, and prospective foster and adoptive parents who want to connect for encouragement and support as well. For information on Heaven Sent in the East Valley, contact Andie Hendrickson at (480) 218-1456 ext 210 or andie@springoflife.org or for Heaven Sent West please contact Ida Bentley at (623)694-1901 or idadamus@cox.net

Arizona Transracial Adoptive Families Support and Playgroup

This a new group for foster and adoptive families raising African-American/Black, biracial, and multiracial children. We chat and share resources online through our Yahoo group site and meet at least 5 times a year for fun events so our families can get to know each other. For more information or to join the group contact Keira Gudnason at kgudnason@aol.com or (480) 941-2414 or Kiara Howerzyl at andykiara@cox.net or (602) 277-4757.

NEW! Interested in a F.A.S Parent Support Group?

Parenting a child with fetal alcohol syndrome can be a challenge. Networking and sharing resources can be extremely helpful. Foster and adoptive mothers Susan Naylor (480-361-8993) and Nancy Garner (480-835-7738) would like to form a support group for F.A.S. parents. If you are interested, please contact them for additional information.

New! TLC Peer Support Group August 31, 2006, 6:00-8:00 pm

*TLC is a peer support group for Foster and Adoptive families living in the West Valley. The group meets once a month at Calvary Worship Center at 7249 W Bethany Home Rd, Glendale, 85303. **FREE** childcare is provided! For more information, please call Dawn or Gordon Hurtt at 623-925-2204.*

Upcoming Trainings and Events

***African-American Skin and Hair Care September 21, 2006, 6:00-8:00pm**

Many foster and adoptive parents will care for an African-American or Biracial child and have no idea about the specialized care needed for their child's hair and skin. Join Kiara Howerzyl, adoptive mother and co-founder of the Arizona Transracial Adoptive Families Support and Playgroup, as she shares what she has learned. Kiara will discuss everything from basics of washing and conditioning and common skin conditions, to hair and skin products, and hair styling. Registration is required. Please call Peggy to register at 602-254-2275 x270

***Dr. Texidor-Neurodevelopmental Milestones and Attachment September 28th, 6:30-8:30pm**

Dr. Texidor will educate participants on how their child's brain develops, particularly how this development is interrupted by various forms of trauma. This training will help parents understand the interplay of neurodevelopment and attachment. Registration is required. Please call Peggy to register at 602-254-2275 x270.