

★ **WELCOME to Kids Crossing Foster Homes!**

- ♥ Blackhills Equestrian Center ▪ Pueblo
- ♥ Brenda ▪ Pueblo
- ♥ Chamar ▪ Pueblo
- ♥ Christine ▪ Pueblo
- ♥ Rebecca & Peter ▪ Pueblo

★ **WELCOME to Youth Ventures, a program of Kids Crossing!**

- ♥ Barbara
- ♥ Carla
- ♥ Christa & Kimberly
- ♥ Debra
- ♥ Gretchen & Ira
- ♥ Hoder-Waller Home
- ♥ Hudson Group Home
- ♥ Jessica
- ♥ Judie
- ♥ Lakara & Dwayne
- ♥ La Mar Place Group Home
- ♥ Open Arms Group Home
- ♥ Penny & Michael
- ♥ Richelle
- ♥ Ricky's House
- ♥ Sandra
- ♥ Safe Landing Group Home
- ♥ Youth Alliance Group Home

★ **Congratulations to Our New Adoptive Parents!!!**

- ♥ Mollie and Billy in Pueblo.

★ **Going ABOVE & BEYOND!** Foster parents, Paul & Renee took the two foster children in their home on vacation to Moab, Utah.

★ **WELL DONE!** John Hill, Provider for Top of the Hill Group Home, took a 13-year-old youth back into his home after the youth returned to Colorado from a failed ICPC relative placement.

★ **DOING LOTS OF HARD WORK!** Foster mother, Judy has been taking boys on short notice, helping out the agency, the county and other foster parents.

★ **Going the EXTRA Mile!** Foster mom, Ana has been working closely with the birth mother of

the children in her care to assist with reunification. Ana has regular conversations with the mother regarding how the children are doing. She arranges to meet with mother for the children's medical and therapeutic appointments. She communicates with the school regarding mother picking the children up for visits also. The children will be attending the same school when they return home.

★ **Making a DIFFERENCE!** Foster mother, Christa does a wonderful job of advocating for services for the young child in her home. She ensured that his hearing was tested, thus learning that he was deaf. She is working to make sure that his needs are being met.

★ **FANTASTIC Teamwork!** Foster parents, Sue and Stan are working with a sibling group of four. They have been amazingly patient, as they have dealt with changes in visits and therapies for the children, as well as illnesses such as RSV.

★ **WAY to GO!** Group home provider, Marnita is extremely dedicated to her new position and has been flexible in working with the girls during challenging situations.

★ **Super TEAM Effort!** Foster parents, Jennifer and Paul took two children back into their home after they had returned home and were quickly placed once again. It was very helpful for the children to be able to go back to a home with which they were familiar.

★ **Going ABOVE & BEYOND!** Foster mother, Suni took a youth back into her home after he was incarcerated.

★ **Foster Parenting to the MAX!** Foster parents, Patti and Randy have been working overtime to try to help with a very difficult child in placement.

★ **Going the EXTRA Mile!** Foster parents, Renee and Al have been patient and understanding during a lengthy and long-distance transition.



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Colorado's Child Passenger Safety Experts Support New National Car Seat Guidelines

March 21, 2011 - Traffic Safety - Keep Children in Car Seats & Booster Seats As Long As Possible. Denver – Colorado's child passenger safety experts support new guidelines announced today by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which advise parents and caregivers to keep children in the appropriate child safety restraint type -- including rear-facing, forward-facing and booster seats -- as long as children fit within the height and weight limits set by the car seat's manufacturer. The new guidelines are consistent with the latest advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics and recommendations from CPS Team Colorado, the state's network of certified child passenger safety technicians.

"For the best protection, there should be no rush in transitioning a child from one type of car seat to another, or from rear-facing to forward-facing. There are car seats on the market now that can accommodate children from birth through 65 pounds, and a few even higher to 80 pounds," said Susan Yates, Colorado's Child Passenger Safety Training Coordinator. "It's important to read the manufacturers' instructions and pick a car seat or booster seat that fits your individual child and will keep them the safest." The new guidelines include keeping babies and toddlers in the rear-facing position until at least age two or until they reach the maximum weight and height limit set by car seat manufacturer. This is recommended because the rear-facing position reduces stresses to the neck and spinal cord of developing babies during a crash.

The recommendations also support keeping children in a car seat with a harness until they reach the upper weight and height limits of the car seat. Then children should use a belt-positioning booster seat until they are at least 4-feet, 9-inches tall, which could be up to 12 years old. And all children under 13 should ride in the back seat with seat belts.

Some of the new guidelines exceed the minimum requirements of Colorado's child passenger safety law, which expanded Aug. 1, 2010 to require all children under age 8 to be properly protected in a child safety seat when traveling in a motor vehicle. In addition to expanding the use of booster seats, the revised law gives parents more flexibility in choosing the best safety seat for their child or baby, as long as they adhere to the upper weight and height limits set by the seat's manufacturer and to follow

installation instructions. However, the law does set the following minimum requirements:

- **Babies under 1 year old and less than 20 pounds must ride in a rear-facing car seat and only in the back seat of the vehicle.**
- **Once babies turn 1 year old and weigh at least 20 pounds, the law gives them the option of using a front-facing car seat.** *Rear-facing car seats are still allowed by law and safety experts recommend that parents continue using them to the upper weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer because it provides the most protection.*
- **Children ages 4, 5, 6 and 7 must continue to be protected in a child safety restraint.** *For most kids in this age group that means a booster seat, but experts recommend that children remain in a forward-facing car seat longer if the upper weight limit of the seat allows it (usually 40-50 pounds).*
- **When a child turns 8, the law allows them to use a vehicle seat belt.** *But for the best protection, safety experts recommend that kids continue to use a booster seat until they are at least 4'9" tall, which half of children will not reach until they are 11 years old.*
- **The minimum fine is \$82 per violation.** *All child passenger safety violations are primary enforcement. The one-year education period for booster seat violations ends Aug. 1, 2011.*

To assist parents in determining the best child safety seat for their child and to make sure it is installed properly, there is a network of more than 140 "fitting stations" across the state as part of CPS Team Colorado. Most of the fit stations offer free assistance for parents, including car seat checks to make sure seats are installed properly. For parents facing financial hardship, some fit stations provide car seats at a reduced price or for a small donation. Parents can find a fit station closest to them by visiting www.carseatscolorado.com or calling toll free 1-877-LUV-TOTS or 303-239-4625 in Metro Denver.

Reprinted from <http://www.coloradodot.info/news/2011news/03-2011/colorados-child-passenger-safety-experts-support-new-national-car-seat-guidelines>.

Keep doing what you do so well!

FOSTER PARENT GROUPS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT KIDS CROSSING & ELSEWHERE:

Pueblo

- ❖ **BEYOND CONSEQUENCES**
 - ◆ Kids Crossing, Pueblo office.
 - ◆ Eight weeks on Thursday evenings, beginning July 7th, going through August 25th. From 6:30 to 8:30pm.
 - ◆ Must attend all 8 classes.
 - ◆ RSVP to Roxann at 545-3882.
 - ◆ Unfortunately, daycare cannot be provided.

- ❖ **CORE**
 - ◆ Kids Crossing, Pueblo office.
 - ◆ July 13 • 6pm to 10pm
 - ◆ July 16 • 9am to 5pm, with lunch on your own.
 - ◆ Must attend both classes.
 - ◆ RSVP to Roxann at 545-3882.
 - ◆ Unfortunately, daycare cannot be provided.

- ❖ **LOVE & LOGIC TRAINING:**
 - ◆ Catholic Charities.
 - ◆ 429 West 10th St. Suite 102.
 - ◆ Phone: 544-4233 ext 120 or 112.
 - ◆ Fee: \$25 a person or \$30 a couple.

- ❖ **CPR & FIRST AID CLASS:**
 - ◆ Good for 2 years. \$35 for both.
 - ◆ New Life Bible Church, 2320 Prairie Avenue.
 - ◆ Call Renee for reservations at 251-8878 or 561-0941.

Colo. Springs

- ❖ **OPEN HOUSE • 1 HOUR**

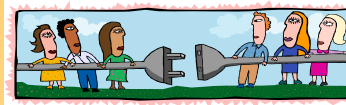
Tues., May 3rd, 5:30 to 6:30pm, 1440 E. Fountain Blvd., Colo. Springs

Open House is for anyone interested in learning more about Kids Crossing and/or foster care.

Please RSVP to Melissa at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com.

Colo. Springs

Colo. Springs Foster Parent Group Meetings



IMPORTANT! FOR ALL GROUP MEETINGS:

- ◆ RSVP with Melissa at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com.
- ◆ Child care will be provided for those who RSVP.
- ◆ KC will provide beverages. Please bring a snack to share.

1. TRAINING GROUP:

- ◆ David Atencio will be here to discuss social work issues and concerns.
- ◆ 2nd Friday.
- ◆ May 13 • 10 to 11 a.m.

2. DISCUSSION SUPPORT GROUP:

- ◆ Foster parents have the opportunity to discuss frustrations they have encountered, hear advice from other foster parents, share positive stories, and meet other foster parents to help build a support system.
- ◆ 4th Friday.
- ◆ May 27 • 10 to 11 a.m.

3. MENTORING GROUP:

- ◆ This group is for foster parents who have been licensed at least 3 years and are interested in mentoring new foster parents.
- ◆ 1st Thursday - **Every Other Month**
- ◆ Next meeting May 5th • 10 to 11 a.m.

❖ LOVE AND LOGIC • 14 HOURS

- ◆ Kids Crossing, Colo. Springs office.
- ◆ Sat. July 30 AND Sat. August 6
- ◆ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with lunch on your own.
- ◆ Participants must attend both days.
- ◆ Workbooks are \$10 for those participants who wish to purchase them.
- ◆ RSVP to Melissa at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com.
- ◆ No child care will be provided.

❖ CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING:

- ◆ Kids Crossing, Colo. Springs office.
- ◆ Three classes are available with instructor, Mark Schaefer:
 1. First Aid (3-year certificate)
 2. Adult CPR (2-year certificate)
 3. Infant CPR (2-year certificate)
- ◆ Cost is \$35 for first class, plus \$5 for each additional class. \$45 for all three.
- ◆ UPCOMING TRAINING DATES:
 - Wed. May 25 • 6pm 10pm
 - Sat. May 28 • 9am to 1pm
 - Wed. June 22 • 6pm 10pm
 - Sat June 25 • 9am to 1pm
- ◆ First Aid training is scheduled for the first 2 hours of the class, then CPR for 2 hours.
- ◆ Child care is not available for this training.
- ◆ For registration and questions, please contact Jackie Porter at 667-7050 or jporter@kidscrossing.com.

Denver

❖ CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING:

- ◆ **Wed. May 18 • 5:30 p.m.**
- ◆ Kids Crossing's Aurora office. The class is being held in the basement conference room, which is located in the same building as the office.
- ◆ Instructor, Darlene Staten.
- ◆ Cost for both certifications is \$40 per person or \$70 a couple
- ◆ For registration and all questions regarding this training, please contact the instructor, Darlene Staten at 720-621-1141.
- ◆ Please make sure you eat first or bring your dinner, because class will go for approximately 4 hours.
- ◆ Child care is not provided for this training.

Denver



Denver Foster Parents Monthly Support Group Meetings

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:
MONDAY • MAY 2nd • 6:30 PM

TOPIC: Margo from the Utilization Review Department and Placement Team is coming out to discuss the County perspective with foster parents, i.e. what foster families want to know, could use more county support on, systems questions, placement investigation questions, have always wanted to ask, etc.

RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND: Contact Amy at 303-861-8915 or aharder@kidscrossing.com.

CHILD CARE: Child care will be available — please let Amy know if you will need child care.

REFRESHMENTS: Snacks and beverages will be provided

TRAINING CREDIT: 1.5 hours.

CONTINUING SCHEDULE: Beginning in April, we will resume meeting the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

Check us out on FACEBOOK...

Colorado Springs Office
kc@kidscrossing.com

Denver Office
kcdenver@kidscrossing.com

Pueblo Office
Kids Crossing Pueblo

...where you'll find the latest news on training & everything else!