

"Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much."
— Helen Keller



Montgomery County Foster Parent Association

P.O. Box 10006 • Gaithersburg, MD 20898-0006 • www.mcfpa.com

Fostering Communications

September 2002 *A newsletter for foster and adoptive parents in Montgomery County. Published by DHHS.*

Please Join!

The Montgomery County Foster Parent Association (MCFPA) is a non-profit organization and is independent from DHHS. All foster and adoptive parents and other interested persons are welcome at our meetings which are held the second Thursday of every month except July, August, and December. Dues are \$10 per year and can be mailed in or paid at the meetings.

The purpose of our organization is to address the needs of the children in care. This purpose is met by supporting foster and adoptive parents, answering questions, finding solutions, presenting helpful speakers at the meetings, and providing camps, tutoring, reduced cost day care, and sports activities.

Another benefit to joining is that you receive 1.5 hours of continuing education credit for each meeting you attend. You are required to complete six (6) hours of credit each year to maintain your license.

Next meeting...

All you need to know about your library

When: September 12, 2002
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Topic: "Reading is FUNdamental:
Everything Foster and Adoptive
Parents Need to Know About
the Library."

Speaker: Saroj Ghoting, Coordinator, Early Childhood Services,
Montgomery County Libraries

Where: Epworth United Methodist Church
9008 Rosemont Dr., Gaithersburg, MD

Directions: The church is across from Walnut Hill Shopping Center on Route 355, near Shady Grove Road. There are three churches in a row. *Epworth United Methodist Church is the middle church with the stained glass steeple.* Parking is in the rear lot. Enter through the back doors, turn left, and follow the hallway around to the right to the social hall.



24-HOUR HOT-LINE

1-240-777-4417

**Montgomery County Department of Social Services
CHILD WELFARE DIVISION**



Meeting Child Care

is available free of charge.



Many of our topics are unsuitable for young ears, so we ask that no children old enough to comprehend the content be brought in to the meetings.

IMPORTANT: We will be regularly checking in on the children to be sure everything is well and there are no behavior problems. Any child not following the rules or the direction of our provider will be removed from the child care room and returned to the responsible parent(s). Since some of the meeting topics are not appropriate for young ears this may require that you leave the meeting as well. If you are bringing older children to the child care room please have a discussion with them about proper behavior, respect for others and property, and following the rules.

If you need child care during our meetings, call Bobbie Augustine a week before any meeting at (301) 977-0792. Children will not be accepted without a reservation.

Montgomery County Foster Parent Association 301-916-6001

OFFICERS

President:

Carolyn Smith301-208-6582

Vice President:

Gerrie Wright301-916-6001

Secretary:

Dave Brown.....301-916-6001

Treasurer:

Carol Enders.....301-948-1197

Steering Committee:

vacant301-916-6001

DHHS Liaison:

Linda Gore(240) 777-3943

Newsletter Editor

Michelle Haggart.....(301) 972-0984
e-mail: EditorFC@aol.com

The MCFPA Executive Board meets the first Monday of each month. Please leave a message at (301) 916-6001 if you have an item that should be discussed.

MARY ALLMAN, with Montgomery County Public Schools Special Education division, will help with any concerns you may have with special education issues. (301) 279-4967.

CAROL FRANCONI, who is an advocate for children, wants feedback on any concerns with **medical assistance or hmos** you may have for your foster children. 410-547-9200 x3006.

Need help with Medical Care?

BRENDA PETERSEN who is a nurse and social worker can help access medical, dental, and mental health services for any child in state-supervised care. Please call her at 240-777-4439 if you need any assistance in obtaining health care or resolving billing issues for the children in your care.

This is **YOUR** newsletter!

All foster and adoptive parents are encouraged to provide articles. These might include finalized adoptions, articles written by the foster child themselves, and scholastic or extra-curricular awards. *The deadline for all contributions to the newsletter is seven days after the monthly meeting.* Please submit your contribution using one of the following methods:

E-mail: EditorFC@aol.com

Mail: Fostering Communications
P.O. Box 10006
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-006

Telephone: (301) 916-6001

CANCELLATION POLICY Meetings will be cancelled if the schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather. The meeting will also be cancelled if Montgomery County Schools cancel evening programs. If you are in doubt call (301) 916-6001 and the recording will tell you if the meeting is on or not. If you prefer to speak to a person, you may call one of the officers. Regardless, do not venture out if driving looks too dangerous.

Clothing Needs for Children in Foster Care

Many of our children are coming into foster care without clothing. The foster parent's responsibility is to purchase new or almost new items for the child within 30 days of placement.

Your children's clothing items will be checked periodically by one of your workers during a routine visit. It is the foster parents' responsibility to replenish and maintain clothing. When a child leaves your home, those items purchased for him/her should go with

him/her. A suitcase or canvas bag should be used to transport clothing. Large items of clothing such as coats may be "recycled" when a child outgrows the item. It should be clean and in good condition before giving it to another child. Shoes and underwear should not be recycled and should be purchased new.

If you have questions as you plan for your foster child's clothing needs, the child's workers or your home worker will be able to help you.

Listed is a *MINIMUM* list of necessities:

BOYS

- 6 pairs of underwear (briefs or boxer)
- 6 undershirts
- 1 pair dress pants/belt
- 5 pair of school pants or 2 school uniforms
- 3 pairs of play pants or jeans
- 6 pair of socks
- 6 shirts (short or long sleeve as seasons indicate)
- 1 pair of sneakers
- 1 pair of dress shoes
- 1 pair of winter boots
- 3 pairs of pajamas, 1 robe, 1 pair of washable slippers
- Personal pillow
- 1 comb and brush
- 1 toothbrush (replaced as appropriate)
- 1 towel and washcloth
- 1 light jacket and sweater
- 1 cool weather jacket
- 1 pair winter gloves and hat
- 1 rain coat for rainy weather



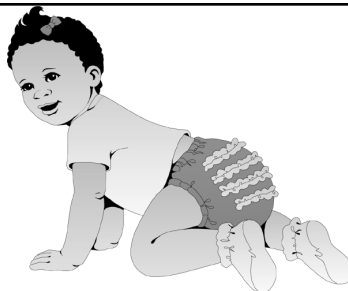
GIRLS

- 6 pairs of underwear
- 6 undershirts or bras as appropriate
- 1 dress and slip
- 5 pair of pants for school, 2 school uniforms
- 3 pairs of play pants or jeans
- 6 pair of socks, stockings or tights as appropriate for size and height
- 6 blouses (short or long sleeve as seasons indicate)
- 1 pair of sneakers
- 1 pair of dress shoes
- 1 pair of winter boots
- 3 pairs of pajamas or gowns, 1 robe, 1 pair of washable slippers
- Personal pillow
- 1 comb and brush
- 1 toothbrush (replaced as appropriate)
- 1 towel and washcloth
- 1 light jacket and sweater
- 1 cool weather jacket
- 1 pair winter gloves and hat
- 1 rain coat for rainy weather



BABIES

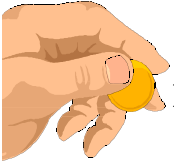
- Cloth or disposable diapers as appropriate
- 8 gowns
- 2 receiving blankets
- 2 heavy blankets and 2 crib sheets
- 6 pair socks/booties



- 2 bibs
- 2 washcloths and towels
- 6 individual bottles and nipples
- Appropriate outer garment
- 1 federally approved safety seat for each child who travels in your car who is under 4 years old or 40 lbs.

MCFPA Membership Form

for July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002



Please fill out, fold in thirds, place in an envelope, and mail with payment to:
Fostering Communications, P.O. Box 10006, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-006

Amount Due: \$10 per foster family

Date: _____ Check # _____ *(Do not send cash)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Best time to call _____

E-mail address _____

Topics and/or speakers you would like to see at our meetings: _____

Comments or suggestions: _____



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