

**FEBRUARY 2022** 



# NEWSLETTER

### **RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS**



Houseparty is one of the many cellphone apps that can be used during parents or sibling visits!

Houseparty is a friendly communication and gaming app where you can interact with video chat while playing games together. There can be up to 8 people playing and video chatting at the same time!



## **Please Join the**

Washoe County Foster & Adoption **Virtual Support Group** 

This is our Resource, Relative, Fictive Kin & Adoptive Family Facebook Support group!



**Washoe County Foster &** Adoption Support >



QR code for Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support Facebook group

Washoe County QPI presents to you the Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support Group! This group welcomes ALL WCHSA's Resource families, Relative/ Kin families, SFC families & Flex and Adoptive families. This group is to share support and resources with one another. The ONLY WCHSA staff in this group is the QPI Liaison to help promote a safe place to share successes, frustrations, and things you've learned along the t way. We want to share stories and have our group be more of a community supporting one another. Please reach out to the QPI Liaison with questions or concerns Kylee Spring kspring@washoecounty.gov



# **Car Seat Installation Training**

Are you interested in learning how to securely fit different types of car seats? Perhaps you just need a refresher? Join us on Thursday, March 17th from 9-11am at HQ! Training will be hands-on & hosted by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Space is limited, so please RSVP to enorlander@washoecounty.gov to secure your spot! Details to follow upon registering.



Bridges is a mandatory training for all resource parents and is offered throughout the year to ensure all resource parents have the opportunity to attend. Please sign up at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register. MPolley@washoecounty.gov

# **Contacts**

Below are some of the most common phone numbers you will/may need while being a resource parent, relative, kin, or adoptive parent.

Center Street Front desk: 775.785.8600

Emergency After hours number: 1.833.900.7233 In case you have an emergency that occurs after hours please call.

Family Engagement Center (FEC): 775.352.3230 905 E Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434 Corner of Prater and Howard

Medical Unit: 775.284.2763

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) 2097 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502 next door to Kids Kottage

Foster Care Services Front Desk: 775.337.4470

#### Foster Care Licensing Supervisor:

Melissa Coates: 775.815.3827

#### Licensing team: Call or text

Codi Soap: 775.842.1992 775.842.1704 Barbara Jaime: Jessica Shepherd: 775.622.6919 Anastasia Cooper: 775.560.7773 775.530.6373 Sandra Espino:

**QPI Liaison:** Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646 kspring@washoecounty.gov

If you have questions or need any type of support don't hesitate to call, text or email Kylee Spring & your licensing worker.

- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 11:00am-12:00. Please contact kspring@washoecounty.gov to RSVP
- Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group: Please contact jcasarez@washoecounty.gov or danderson@washoecounty.gov for any question or if you want to attend
- **<u>Relative Support Group:</u>** Every Thursday at 7pm. Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73578283111?pwd=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU0I5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09 Meeting ID: 735 7828 3111 Passcode: qp4zU6
- Be in the Loop Group: Be in the loop group is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. This meeting is held the Third Thursday of every month at 10:00 am on TEAMS. We would love for you to join. Please email Kylee Spring at kspring@washoecounty.gov to be added to the invite

#### **REMINDER**

## New Training updates:

#### **QPI WEBSITE:**

#### HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website. You can receive renewal training hours for these trainings!

Understanding the LGBTQ+ Community and Supporting the Foster Youth in Your Care

Understanding the LGBTQ+ Community and Supporting the Foster Youth in Your Care Training objectives are: improve basic knowledge of the LGBTQ+ community including terminology, how to support youth through the coming out process, increasing understanding of gender identity and gender non-conforming youth to respond appropriately, and building awareness of issues the LGBTQ+ community may face (0.75 hour)

Tools for Maintaining African American Hair

This training addresses questions many foster parents have about caring for ethnic hair types. The training interviews two barbers on hair care routines, needs, and how to maintain the hair of foster youth. Many foster parents have questions and want to hear it from the experts. (0.5 hour)

Providing Support to Youth Who Have Experienced **Toxic Stress** 

This video provides an overview of adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress, how toxic stress shows up in behavior and beliefs, as well as how to support youth who have experienced or are experiencing toxic stress.

Presented by licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Barbara Lankamp-Kochis. (0.5 hour)

#### **Creating Permanency for Youth**

Youth transitioning out of foster care often come out at a disadvantage. The norm they had grown accustom to where supportive adults fulfill specific needs typically comes to an end when they leave foster care. However, that's when they actually need more supportive people and this training addresses the need. This training is designed to help caretakers have the conversations needed to discover the supports youth will have when they leave care. (1.5 hour)

#### **Child Centered Strategies for Supporting Families**

Children from hard places manifest the trauma they have experienced in many different ways. Caregivers report the child in their care acting out in ways such as running away, lying, stealing, and arguing but also with children who shut down, become isolated, and stop communicating. Despite the services and trainings available to support families, caregivers often report they continue to feel unprepared and not provided with adequate tools to support children who display significant intensity of behaviors in their home display. This panel will provide a brief overview of recent media events highlighting caregiver's responses to the behaviors of the children in their homes and engage participants in a discussion in approaches to assist in the moment. The panel will be interactive, providing a significant question and answer segment as well (1.5 hour)

### Just in Time Training

We are trying to get more support groups together especially in Spanish! Please email Kylee Spring at kspring@washoecounty.gov if you would like to start a support group. Kylee can help make that happen!

# COVID-19 CORNER

If ANY household members exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, OR if they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, OR if anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19, that they must:

- 1. Contact the health department or their medical provider for guidance on testing.
- Immediately self-isolate the household until medically 2. cleared. This includes any in-person contact including visitation, meetings, appointments etc.
- 3. Notify the child(ren)'s caseworker(s) and the licensing worker within the same business day.



# WCHSA Medical Unit!

# Medical Unit: 775.284.2763

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) 2097 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502 next door to Kids Kottage An EPSDT (early periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment) exam MUST be scheduled within 7 days of a child entering foster care and periodically thereafter (see the screening schedule <u>here</u>). Please invite and inform biological parents to participate and attend appointments unless prohibited from doing so by the caseworker. Additionally, it is your responsibility to keep the agency updated on medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and emergency appointments for a child in your care. In order for the agency to create and maintain an accurate "medical passport" for all children, please fill out the <u>MonthlyMedHistoryForm-Washoe.pdf</u> (<u>qpinevada.org)</u> and email it to your caseworker.

# Adoption/Flex Families Don't Miss Out!

On the evening of **February 17, 2022 (5:30-7:00PM)** Mitch Matthews will be hosting a virtual *Profile Party*. This event will provide prospective adoptive families the opportunity to learn more about the children for whom we are recruiting adoptive homes. During this meeting, our workers will provide information about these children, share updated photos and answer questions.

Participation in recruitment events provide the agency with the opportunity to assess prospective families' strengths, goals, expectations and how these align with the needs of our children.

There is no need to RSVP...here is the Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87454634684?pwd=dFRvRS9qM2RUUFhvYkw2T2VFUGRwZz09

Meeting ID: 874 5463 4684

Passcode: 168416

"Families don't have to match. You don't have to look like someone else to love them." - Leigh Anne Tuohy



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# **Interested in Adoption?**

# Rebecca

10-years-old

#### 100% FREE

This mighty girl stays busy with her many interests! She loves singing, playing with her dolls and stuffed animals, and watching television. Rebecca is a great eater and enjoys eating out at restaurants. She stays active by dancing and jumping on the trampoline. Rebecca loves school and enjoys participating in class discussions. She is also a strong reader! Rebecca desires attention, and can be quite talkative, lovable, and sweet. Rebecca came into foster care over five years ago. She has had quite the journey in her little life. There are specialized supports in place which are helping her developmental progress. The ideal family wishing to be considered will have experience parenting children with significant behavioral needs. She does best in a home with firm but loving boundaries and would benefit from a caregiver who does not work outside of the home to support her ongoing needs.



If you interested in learning more about Rebecca, you may contact Myra Yeargan, (775)560-8913 myeargan@washoecounty.gov



### Samuel "Sam"

9-years-old

#### FLEX HOME

Are you a laid-back family with a calm, but structured routine? Any master builders in your family? Do you enjoy corny jokes? Are you looking to adopt a sweet, silly kid with an infectious laugh? Meet Sam!

He is described as a super friendly, bright, and engaging little boy who is a bundle of energy. Sam loves to tell corny jokes, but the best punch line is always his infectious laugh. He is a master of fun facts and will share them with you at any opportunity. Sam was gifted with an incredible imagination which he puts to work playing with his favorite superheroes, building Legos, playing Minecraft, tinkering with toy cars or really anything hands on.

Sam loves to be a helper and thrives with positive, one on one attention and consistent structure. He would rather be inside reading a book, putting a puzzle together or playing board games. Still, with the patience and encouragement of his foster family he is learning to enjoy the outdoors by going on hikes, riding his bike or scooter, and even trying his hand at sports.

If you would like more information about this fun, imaginative little boy, please contact Tawnya Robertson at <u>Trobertson@washoecounty.us</u>

## DeMarco

9-year-old

#### LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Are you an active family who loves exploring and learning new things? DeMarco sure does! This sweet, adorable little boy with the cheesy, infectious grin is a people pleaser for sure! DeMarco loves to share and help others. He thrives from one-on-one attention, enjoys conversing and generally relishes connecting with others.

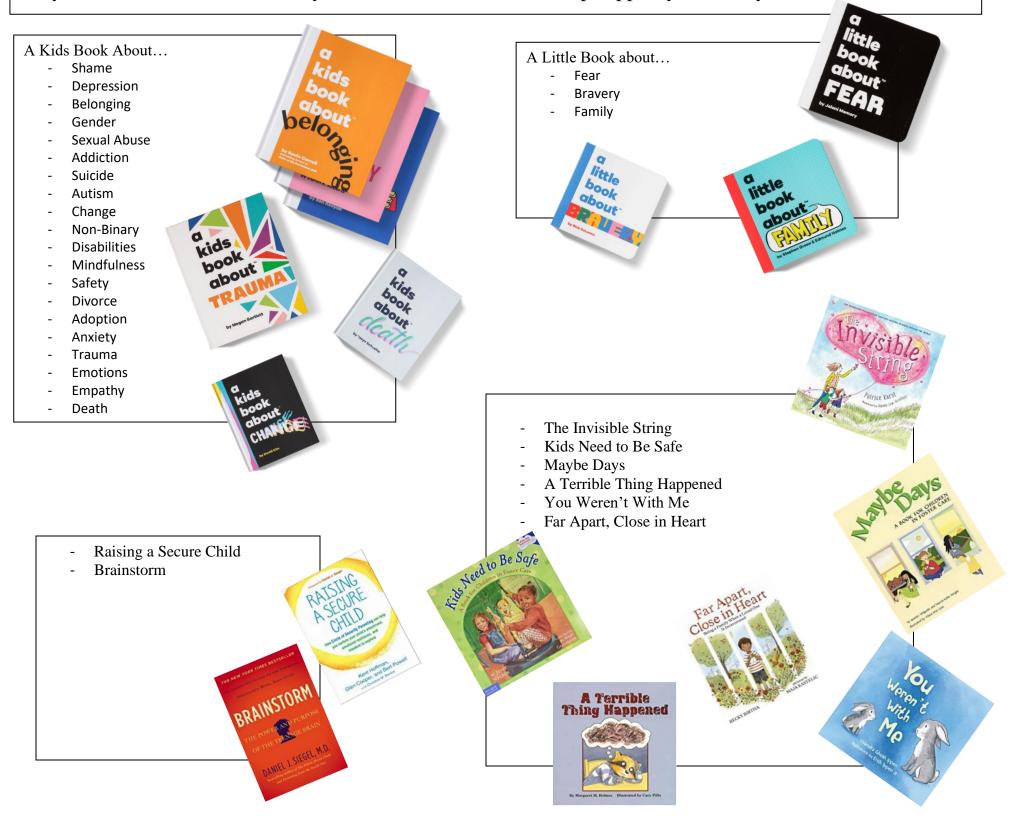
Now that DeMarco has the opportunity, he is exploring every sport and outdoor activity he can try. He loves his bike, his scooter, hiking, soccer, and football. If that's not enough, he also loves swimming. Well, really anything to do with water play. DeMarco is looking for an active family who will keep up with all his newly found interests while allowing him the opportunity to continue discovering. Oh, and do not forget about MineCraft. If you can check off all those boxes, you might just win DeMarco's heart.

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If you'd like to learn more about this exuberant, active little boy please reach out to: Tawnya Robertson at <u>Trobertson@washoecounty.us</u>

# HQ has a library for you!

As you know the Resource Parent Head Quarters on Prater is coming together! We have just installed the HQ library! This library is full of books for you and the children in your homes. All you have to do is let the QPI Liaison know what book you need/want and come pick it up. You are able to keep the books as well! These books are a great way to help the children in your home with their feelings and help them understand their story. Below are some of the many books we have in stock to help support your family!







# **Court Information**

HSA has updated the **Court Notification Policy**. There were changes made to the policy to help provide our resource parents with court information in a timely manner.

In addition to the policy the **Caregiver's Update on Child Form** was also updated. This form will still be mailed to you but in case you don't receive it or if it gets lost it will also be stored on the QPI website for your convivence. (Business Casual Letterhead Template (qpinevada.org)) This form is to be completed and returned to the Court Liaison Unit by its due date, which is 5 business days prior to the hearing. This form is to help ensure that your voice is heard whether you are in court to provide updates or if you are unable to attend.

The **Waiver of Notice by US Mail** is on the following page. This waiver is to be filled out and provided if you wish to receive all court notifications and documentation by email instead of the US Postal Services. This form would have to be filled out for each case that is in your home. Therefore, one should be completed for sibling groups. However, if you have two or more foster children in your home that are part of different cases then you would have to complete two or more forms. This will be a form that will consistently have to be filled out as new foster children are placed with you. Due to this we have also placed this form on the QPI website for your convenience (Business Casual Letterhead Template (qpinevada.org)).

Tata L	WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	350 SOUTH CENTER STREET RENO, NEVADA 89501-2103 PHONE: (775) 785-8600 FAX: (775) 785-8648	<ol> <li>Your thoughts on how these</li> </ol>	e needs can be addressed:	
	Caregiver's Update on Child				
Please complete the bear	der of this form with as much information as is known.		10. Your thoughts on child's cas	e plan goals:	
Parent's Name: Caregiver Name: Child's Name: Child's Name: Child's Name:	Case Worker: Date of Birth: Date of Birth Date of Birth		11. Other child/case specific info	ormation you wish the Court to consider:	
Date of Hearing:			Caregiver's Signature	Caregiver's Printed Name	Date
This form must be <u>receiv</u> hearing date in order to b	<u>ed</u> by the Court Liaison team at least five (5) business d be filed with the Court.	ays before the court			
Return to: Email Address:	HSA-CourtLiaison@washoecounty.us or; Attn: Court Liaison 350 South Center Street Reno NV 89520				

- Child's social interaction with caregiver family, peers and siblings:
- 2. Child's school progress and adjustment:
- 3. Child's physical health (state results of medical and dental appointments):
- 4. Child's emotional health and well-being (counselor or therapist appointment/schedule):
- 5. Child's adjustment to caregiver family and caregiver family expectations:
- 6. Child's visits with parent(s) and sibling(s):
- 7. Child's strengths, hobbies, gifts, talents, participation in extra-curricular activities/events:
- 8. Your view on the needs of the child:





Please ensure you fill out all highlighted sections. You can find the Case Number on prior court orders or from your caseworker.





350 South Center Street RENO, NEVADA 89501-2103 PHONE: (775) 786-8600 FAX: (775) 785-8648

NEWSLETTIE

Date

NAME [Foster Parent, Relative Placement, Person Planning to Adopt] ADDRESS ADDRESS Email Address

#### Re: Case No.: JVXX-XXXX

I acknowledge that I have the right to notice and to be heard at hearings in the abovereferenced case. I understand that this right to notice and opportunity to be heard does not include the right to standing as a party to the case. 42 U.S.C. 675(5)(G); 45 C.F.R. 1356.21(o); NRS 432B.580; NRS 432B.590. I understand that if the child who is the subject of this hearing is placed for adoption, the right to visitation of the child is subject to the provisions of NRS 127.171).

I hereby waive my right to receive notice of hearings by US mail pursuant to NRS 432B.580(6) and NRS 432B.590(1). I request that all notices to me be provided by email at the following email address:

Name of Foster Parent

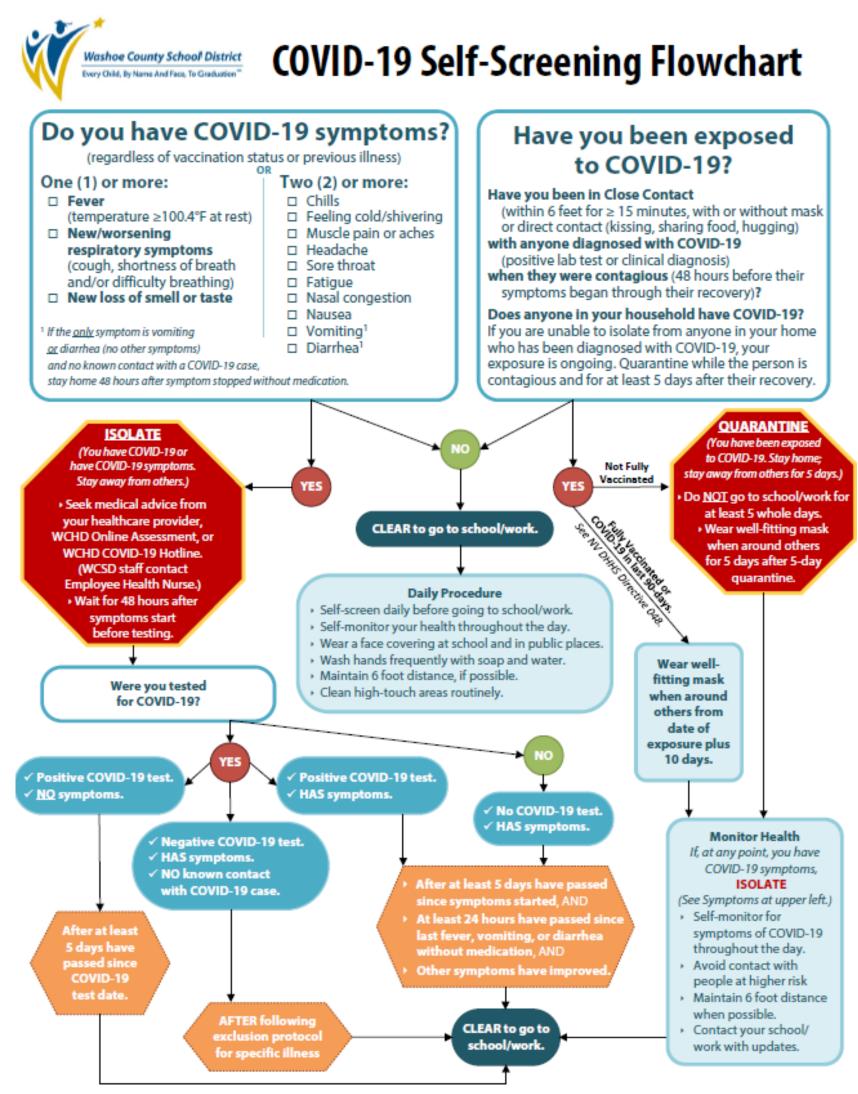
Signature of Foster Parent





# Family Engagement Center: COVID Information

The FEC is following a combination of protocols from the Washoe County School District as well as the Washoe County Health Department in determining whether it is appropriate and safe to allow visits between children and parents. All cases will be evaluated based on these protocols as well as safety and risk of individuals entering our building. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to navigate through these trying times. Please reach out to the FEC if you have questions or concerns. Below you will fine the WCSD exclusion flow chart



COVID-19 Testing: WashoeSchools.net/COVID19testing | WCSD Employee Health Nurse (STAFF ONLY): (775) 348-0338

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# Boys & Girls Club – 2022 Closure Dates

# 2022 CLUB CLOSURE DATES



- Cioppino Fundraiser Building Prep (DWR 9th St. only) February 24-25
- Memorial Day May 30
- Summer Staff Training June 6-10 (All locations)
- Independence Day Observed July 4
- Back to School Training+ Building Repair (Clubhouses only)

August 15-19 - Reno-Sparks

- August 15 & 16 Fernley August 29 - September 2 - Ely • Labor Day September 5
- Nevada Day October 28
- Thanksgiving November 24-25
- Christmas December 26

# Washoe County School District

	FAQ – Educational Quick Facts re. Youth in Foster Care			
	INCLUDING important WCHSA policy updates!! (Updated 9/30/21)			
	<ul> <li>Did you know??</li> <li>SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE: Foster youth have the right to remain at their School of Origin (see definition at end of document) when they come into care and/or change placements – even if it's an adoptive placement - to reduce additional disruptions and maintain their educational stability.         <ul> <li>WHY?</li> <li>Often the school they attend when they come into care is the "only" stable environment in their world – while parents and placements are in flux.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
Frequent Asked Questions.	<ul> <li>Statistically, foster youth lose an average of 6 months of education for every school move/disruption.</li> <li>WCHSA is bound by State and National legislation, to ensure that every effort is made to maintain our foster youth in their School of Origin.</li> <li>IF it is determined to be in the best interest of the student to change schools, it MUST be approved by WCHSA leadership. This process is coordinated through the student's worker and the WCHSA educational liaison.</li> <li>Foster Parents, relatives and fictive kid CANNOT change a youth's school without proper approval through WCHSA.</li> <li>TRANSPORTATION: Mileage reimbursement is available to whomever is assisting with transportation if there is no bus available. This applies to "anyone" transporting the youth, while the case is open.</li> <li>The district tracks the miles, so you don't have to! The reimbursement is one round trip, based on mapped miles between school and placement address and is disbursed once a month (electronic payments are available!) for the prior month of transport.</li> <li>STRONG COMMUNICATION IS KEY</li> <li>The relationship with your student's school is your first line of defense in providing support.</li> <li>Communicate with your worker when things get confusing or challenging.</li> <li>INFINITE CAMPUS: Get acquainted with Infinite Campus to follow student progress – provide kudos earned and track missing assignments. "It takes a village" and caregivers are an essential part of that village!</li> <li>WCSD Board of Trustees meets (almost) every other Tuesday, so if you would like to be "in the know" and have the opportnuity to have your voice heard, please tune in! <u>https://www.washoeschools.net/domain/168</u></li> <li>SUPPORT:</li> <li>WCHSA Educational Liaison &amp; WCSD Foster Liaison work together to support all things education! Your case worker can reach out when things get sticky!</li> <li>TUTORING is always available. Be sure to check with your worker.</li> &lt;</ul>			

# Family Engagement Center (FEC) Resource

Accessing new clothing, diapers, shoes, etc. for kiddos coming into care is difficult for most resource families to do at the 'drop of a hat'. I am happy to announce that with 'leftover'

monies from our 2020 Pennington Foundation grant, the FEC was able to purchase a large amount of new clothing items and diapers for kiddos. At this time, however, the items purchased are ONLY for NEW kids coming into care. If you receive a new placement, give the FEC a call (775-352-3230) or stop by (905 E. Prater Way in Sparks) to gather a few of the following items for kiddos 0-18:

- Diapers/wipes (including pull-ups, goodnites, etc.)
- Shoes
- Socks
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- Shorts and T-shirts
- Bathing suits
- Hygiene items
- Etc.

In addition, for any foster home that has African American children, we have a large **supply of ethnic hair care products** just for them.



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# Resources

### RENO VOLLEYBALL CLUB

The Reno Volleyball Club is willing to offer discounts to children and youth in WCHSA foster care who would like to play volleyball. For more information, visit their website or contact Cindy Lawrence at 775-313-4124 or RenoVBC@aol.com.

### SOCCER SPROUTS

The Reno Sportsdome is offering discounts to foster youth who have an interest in soccer! For more information contact Shannon at sprouts@renodome.com.

### RAISE THE FUTURE

Offers several webinar options on their website for families regarding adoption and foster care topics. View their main Classes and Training page as well as their Upcoming Classes. In addition, they also have a free lending library. They offer a wide variety of books with topics ranging from; exposure, grief & trauma healing, mental illness, sexual abuse, special needs adoption, books for children and more. Visit their website above or call 1-800-451-5246 to learn how easy it is to borrow and return.

### NEVADA EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY (NEATS)

If you're interested in learning more about NEATS and how their services can help you or a youth in your home visit their website or call Laurie at 750-9823.

## HEAD START

Has openings! The Community Services Agency (Head Start, State Pre-K and Early Head Start) would love to talk to you if you're interested in early education for your 0-3 or 3-5-year-old. Contact Megan Jack at (775) 786-6023 ext. 207 or mjack@csareno.org.

# Nevada 211 YOUTH APP Ages 12 to 19 Easy Fast Confidential

### BIGGEST LITTLE BABY

Previously the Nurturing Nest, Biggest Little Baby is a birth and parenting community that offers a variety of free classes from pregnancy and childbirth to yoga. They also offer free weekly circles of support, toddler playgroups and breast-feeding circle to mention just a few.

### A CHILD'S WORLD

Offers a community support group for parents of children with attachment or trauma issues. Receive one hour of training credit per group attended. Groups are the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30p.m. (excluding December). Please RSVP to Sharon Willams at least 1 day in advance at 322-4650 or Sharonacwoffice@att.net.

### WANDA'S BABY CLOSET

Have you ever heard of Casa de Vida? They're a great resource for our teen moms. What you may not be aware of is Wanda's Baby Closet who works in collaboration with Casa de Vida providing free baby clothes and supplies to our bio and foster parents. For information on how to access this amazing resource or to help your bio parent call (775) 329-3211.

### KIWANIS CLUB

Has great bikes and accessories available at discounted prices! Contact them at (775) 337-1717 or check out their website above.

### FREE TUTORING!

If your youth needs tutoring, please reach out to Joseph at Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF). As a reminder, SAFF can tutor students of all ages who are foster, adopted and/or have reunified.

# BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES







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