

February 2025

News You Can Use

Foster Parent Newsletter



It's hard to believe we're already talking about spring break and summertime, but both will be here before we know it. Are you ready? In this issue we've got tips to help you prepare to have great spring and summer breaks with your kids. It's the first item on the list. We've also included other helpful resources and reminders.

Here's what you'll find:

- In-service training opportunities
- Foster care board payment schedule
- Placement checklist & guide
- New camera and recording guidance
- Sunshine Health OTC benefit increase & more
- Tax season tips
- Button batteries & other child safety tips
- Foster parent spotlights

If you need information about a topic we haven't covered, or you'd just like to learn a bit more, please reach out to us at communications@fpocf.org. We'll try to include information about the topic in an upcoming edition.

As always, thanks for all you do!



Plan Ahead for Spring, Summer Travel

Spring and summer breaks are right around the corner and a great time for families to travel and spend time together.

We hope you'll be able to take all the kiddos with you. The fun and adventure will be a highlight of a foster child's time

in your home. Most importantly, it will allow your kids to feel included and part of the family.

With that in mind, here are a few things to know before you go:

- Connect with your licensing support coordinator at least 30 days prior to travelling if you're heading to another state. You will need a court order.
- If you are unable to take your kids, please arrange for them to stay with a backup caregiver who is listed in your foster care license.
- Send an email to all parties (case manager, licensing support, Guardian ad Litem) to let them know who will be caring for your children in your absence and how to reach you in an emergency. Please include your temporary caregiver in that communication.
- If you need respite care provided by another foster parent, they must be able to provide appropriate bedding and car seats for additional children. Share your plan with Intake and Placement staff so they can ensure all requirements are met and proper payment is made to the temporary caregivers.
- Ensure that your foster children have met and are comfortable with the temporary caregivers and their home **before** you leave. Consider having them babysit for you in the weeks leading up to your time away or coordinate several play dates. This prior introduction will help ensure a seamless transition for the child and caregiver, enabling them to have a successful and enjoyable time together.
- Make sure the temporary caregiver has the child's necessary supplies (diapers, formula, clothing, medications) and insurance card in case of emergency.
- Set expectations. Let the temporary caregiver know if you'd like them to check in daily or not at all. Some families will relax better knowing their child is having a great time. Other families need a break and will prefer for non-emergency updates to wait until they return home.

And if you are able to help a fellow foster family during the upcoming breaks, please let our placement teams know. Many families will need respite care in the coming weeks. Foster families in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties who can help are asked to share their availability with their licensing or placement coordinator. Brevard families should notify intake@brevardfp.org.

In-Service Training Opportunities

TBRI Training: Save the date. TBRI sessions will be offered virtually March 26-April 30 on Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Stay tuned for registration information.

Mid-Year Changes for Foster Homes:

This 30-minute online training can be accessed through your **MyFLLearn** account. If you have not taken it, please do so. It covers information that needs to be reported immediately to licensing when mid-year changes take place.

Effective Discipline Training Offered: A virtual Effective Discipline training will be offered March 12 at 12 p.m. Registration is not required. Join by using the information below.

- Meeting URL: <https://embracefamilies-org.zoom.us/j/86739667101?pwd=C3Swluy38lsxrin7F2J4xZKU4OKQ4.1>
- Meeting ID: 867 3966 7101
- Passcode: 560475



In Brief & Reminders

Foster Care Board Payment Schedule

Foster board and childcare subsidies are issued the second Thursday of the month following the date of service. Below is the reimbursement schedule for the next five months.

- February services reimbursed March 13
- March services reimbursed April 10
- April services reimbursed May 8
- May services reimbursed June 12
- June services reimbursed July 10

Know the Ropes: Placement Checklist

A placement checklist was created in partnership with a group of foster parents to provide guidance for caregivers with new placements. It includes important topics for discussion with case managers to ensure all aspects of the placement of a child in your home are considered. [Check it out for your review and use.](#)

Camera and Recording Guidance

The Department of Children and Families recently issued new guidance regarding recording devices. Cameras are no longer required to record. If a camera does record, the footage still needs to be kept for 14 days. Cameras are not allowed in bedrooms or bathrooms.

Over-the-Counter Benefit Increases

Visit [Sunshine Health's benefits overview page](#) for details about the benefits available through the agency's specialty plan. Select the expanded benefits option at the end of the information to see a list of old and new benefits, including an **increase in the monthly over-the-counter benefit from \$25 to \$50**. If you have problems accessing the benefit or questions related to the Sunshine Health plan, please contact one of our nurse care coordinators:

- Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties — Sabrina Beharie, Sabrina.Beharie@fpcf.org or 407-490-6665, and Gayle Hicks, Gayle.hicks@fpcf.org or 407-619-8762.
- Brevard County — Lauren.Madden@brevardfp.org.

Helpful Resources

[It's Tax Season: Guidance for Foster Placements | Button Batteries & Other Child Safety Tips](#)

Foster Parent Spotlight

Saba Khan and Fawad Timizi have been foster parents to four children since 2018. One reunified with a family member. Saba and Fawad adopted the other three.

The couple are saddened when parental rights are terminated, and they work hard to build relationships with biological family members. They continue to have healthy relationships with their adopted children's parents and



extended family members because they understand the importance of connections with birth families

Of the couple's three children, two are siblings whose biological mother asked them to adopt the children so they could remain together. She is grateful they are in a stable and loving home and that they will always know their birth parents love them. Saba and Fawad's adopted daughter frequently communicates with her biological grandmother, who has also "adopted" the couple's other kids as her grandchildren. And all of the children are able to visit their biological family members.

Saba and Fawad remain open as a foster family. They understand the importance of children having a safe and loving home until reunification can happen, and they love supporting the birth families in their efforts to make that goal a reality.



Tracie and Joe Romandetti

consistently demonstrate a profound commitment to supporting children and their families on the journey toward reunification. They excel in meeting families where they are, offering empathy and understanding, and fostering a collaborative environment that prioritizes what is best for the child. Even when children transition back home and the Romandettis experience the natural grief of

saying goodbye, they remain steadfast in their role as a resource and support for both the children and their parents. Their ongoing availability to these families during such critical moments is a testament to their selflessness and belief in doing what is best for the child. We appreciate all they do for our children and families.

About Family Partnerships of Central Florida

Family Partnerships of Central Florida is committed to protecting children, strengthening families and changing lives through a comprehensive, integrated, community-based system of care that provides adoption, foster care and independent living services for children and families in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

Contracted with the Florida Department of Children and Families as the lead child welfare agency in the four-county area, Family Partnerships of Central Florida's mission is to ensure that the children it serves thrive in safe, healthy and loving families.



Family Partnerships of Central Florida

BREVARD | ORANGE | OSCEOLA | SEMINOLE

Family Partnerships of Central Florida | 389 Commerce Pkwy Suite 120 | Rockledge, FL 32955 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)