

Foster Parent Monthly

February 2020

Greetings from George



Happy Valentine's Day to All! This month is a month designated as a "month to show love" to others. We all understand that if Valentine's Day is the only day that we take the time to demonstrate our love toward others, our world would be a miserable place to exist the other 364 days of the year.

For a very large part of our society, Valentine's Day has become synonymous with adults buying flowers, candy, and taking that someone very special out to a luxurious restaurant for an evening of fine dining. If you have ever attempted to enter a dining establishment on Valentine's Day without a reservation, you will likely be told "the wait will be 2 to 3 hours or more." You may have heard that "love is patient" but if that means having to wait 3 hours before one can eat, somehow "our love" is just as easily shared at a fast food restaurant or someplace where we can get takeout!

I want to encourage every foster, adoptive, guardian and kinship provider to reclaim this special day and month for your special little ones! Take some time during this month to show your children you really care and love them. Show them that the holiday is not just for adults, but for children as well. Whether you make a special breakfast, homemade greeting card, little love notes in their lunch boxes or around their room, taking them out to do something special, give them flowers, candy or gifts. Let them know, "it is all about them!" Be crazy, be creative but most of all be genuine in your efforts to help make their day, their month one that they will not soon forget!

My creative juices are flowing now and I came up with this revised version of a song that you know and can sing to and with them. "You are my Valentines; my only Valentines, you make me happy when skies are gray, you'll never know dear how much I love you, please don't take your Valentine's away!" Do you have any creative ways to make Valentine's special?

Suggestion Box

- Submit ideas for this newsletter & in-service trainings to George. This will also allow us to better serve your family's needs.
- Want to toot your own horn, another foster parent's horn, maybe a social worker's horn? Email George and don't forget a photo!



Contact Information

George Montgomery 704.216.8467 George.Montgomery@rowancountync.gov
Nadean Quarterman 704.216.8462 Nadean.Quarterman@rowancountync.gov
Social Work Services 704.216.8440
After Hours & Holidays 704.216.8500 Ask for the DSS On-Call Social Worker



Board Payment Schedule

- January's payment will be mailed on February 24, 2020.
- February's payment will be mailed on March 20, 2020.
- March's payment & Clothing Allowance will be mailed on April 24, 2020.

Foster Parent In-Service Training

- February 24, 2020. The meeting will be held at Rowan County DSS from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For child care please email Social Worker Montgomery the age and gender of each child for which care is needed.

20 hours of continuing foster parent educational training are required every two years for re-licensure.

Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group

- *If you have not attended this group you are missing an invaluable resource. This is a great time for families to build relationships with others in similar situations, obtain information on community resources, and engage in topics, such as, 504/IEP school planning, bullying, and positive parenting.*
- February 10, 2020, from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM, **Dinner and childcare are FREE.** Dinner is served at 5:30 PM. The meeting is held at the Mount Tabor UMC, located at 4520 Old Mocksville Road in Salisbury, and will begin at 6:00 PM. This group is open to only foster and adoptive parents. It is designed for these parents to share ideas and offer support to one another. RSVP if attending. Child care is provided upon request with RSVP. For more information & to RSVP, contact Alyse Breger, the parent facilitator, at 561-289-9952 or email Alyse at info@fosterloveadoptrepeat.com.

TIPS-MAPP Spring Class

- This 10 week class begins on March 3, 2020 and concludes on May 5, 2020. Invite friends, family, and co-workers who may be interested to attend the informational meeting referenced below for more information and to be enrolled in this course.

Foster Parent Recruitment Informational Meeting

- On February 4, 2020, at 5:30 PM, RCDSS will host the Informational Meeting for those in the community interested in becoming licensed foster parents. We are always in need of quality families interested in making a positive, lifetime impact through fostering. Inform us if you know of a local organization or group that is willing to give us time for a brief presentation.
- **Do you have ideas for Recruitment?** Share your thoughts with: George.Montgomery@rowancountync.gov, Nadean.Quarterman@rowancountync.gov, or Micah.Ennis@rowancountync.gov.

LINKS Meeting

- February 19, 2020, from 4:00pm until 5:30pm. The topic will be "Career Clusters Interest." Please encourage your teenage foster children to attend. **LINK\$ BUCK\$ (incentive)** will be given to youth who attend and participate in the LINKS Meetings.

Happenings at Rowan County DSS

- Rowan County Social Services in partnership with Rowan One Church One Child launched the STAR TREE program in 2007. This program allows local churches to sponsor children receiving services through Child Protective Services. In 2007, 243 children were blessed with Christmas gifts. We closed 2019 with our 12th year of Christmas gift giving to 707 children.

Happenings at Rowan County DSS continued...

- Officer Sexton and Officer Miller of Salisbury Police Department along with several members of their Cadet program coordinated an amazing donation of 13 bikes.



Welcome, Richard & Stephanie Erdman

Richard “Skip” and Stephanie were licensed as Rowan County DSS newest foster parents in December of 2019. Stephanie is employed with Rowan Salisbury School System as a 9th and 10th grade English teacher. She really enjoys teaching teenagers and helping them to build and navigate their futures. Stephanie was awarded teacher of the year from her high school in 2017 for her outstanding work as an instructor. Skip is self-employed and owns several businesses. He has also worked in entertainment, is an accomplished pilot and has worked for one of NASCAR’s most famous drivers. Together they have two beautiful daughters, enjoy traveling and by their own admission have watched the movie, Frozen, with their daughters at least 9,000 times. Help us Welcome the Erdman Family!

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Within the past 12 months, Rowan County DSS has increased LGBTQ friendly foster homes available from 2 to 11 foster homes!

Foster home licensure is a privilege, not a right. Child-placing agencies have no obligation to license a home that does not meet the needs of the agency and the children in care.

Policy Brief

Which Parenting Type is Right for You?

There's no manual for parenting — something you probably realized when you brought your little one home. There's no single “right” way to parent. How you parent will depend on how you were raised, how you see others parenting, and even, to some extent, your cultural background.

Some of the more widely recognized parenting styles are:

- authoritative
- authoritarian
- attachment
- permissive
- free range
- helicopter
- uninvolved/neglectful



If you have a newborn at home (or one on the way!) and want to learn about which parenting style might be right for you — or if you have an older child and wonder if your current methods might be worth rethinking — read on to learn more about the different types of parenting.

Remember:

There's no “right” or “wrong” way to parent. Neglectful would not be appropriate, but otherwise, your style will likely draw from several different types. On those tough days when you're questioning *everything*, remind yourself that this parenting thing is hard, perfect kids don't exist, and you're doing an amazing job at raising your little human. If you have parenting questions, talk to your child's pediatrician. If they can't help you, they can refer you to a mental health counselor who can.

To read the full article, check out Healthline Parenthood using the address below.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/types-of-parenting>