

# Foster Parent Monthly

April 2020

## Greetings from George



“Hey stupid! You’re so fat!” “No sirves para nada,”  
“Me averguenzo de,” “You’re ugly! You’re so dumb!”  
“Hey lesbo!” and “You’re pretty for a dark-skinned girl!”

Have you ever had any of these or similar remarks directed toward you when you were growing up? If you have not, I am sure you know someone who had remarks like these hurled their way. Name calling, shaming, taunting, and belittling are just some of the verbal abuse that thousands of children wake up and go to bed to every day.

April is Child Abuse Prevention month. For many of us when we hear of child abuse we think of sexual abuse, physical abuse and gross neglect. All of these forms of maltreatment are horrible in nature and unacceptable for any of our children to experience. I submit to you that emotional and verbal abuse is just as damaging to the health, safety, and well-being of our children. According to Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina Child Maltreatment statistics, there were 119,339 children with investigated reports of possible abuse and neglect in North Carolina from July 2017-June 2019. During that same period in Rowan County, there were 2,180 reported cases of abuse and neglect.

I don’t know about you but one case is one too many! Words are powerful tools! They can be used to build a person up just as easy as they can be used to tear a person down. Hurtful words can damage a child’s self-esteem and derail their normal development. Think for a moment...how many times do you find yourself providing words of praise, encouragement and hope to a child for something they have accomplished or for “just because...” Now think for a moment and count how many times you spend chastising, correcting, disciplining and fussing. The ratio of positive reinforcement versus correcting negative behavior should be at a minimum of 7 to 1.

With all the social media challenges that we hear about today, I want to offer you a challenge. See how many times and ways during the course of a day you can give a child a form of positive affirmation. A high five, fist bump, pat on the shoulder and telling a child “job well done.” Come on! Let’s see about changing a child’s life direction and self-esteem. Always remember that our job as foster/adoptive parents, kinship caregivers and community providers is to help children feel “lovable, capable, responsible and worthwhile!

## 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](mailto:George.Montgomery@rowancountync.gov)  
Nadean Quarterman 704.216.8462 [Nadean.Quarterman@rowancountync.gov](mailto: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

- March's payment & Clothing Allowance will be mailed on April 24, 2020.
- April's payment will be mailed on May 22, 2020.
- May's payment will be mailed on June 19, 2020.



We are so thankful that you are here to help us care for our children!! Know that Rowan County DSS is taking the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Please continue to practice safety, and we will all get through this together. Please note that ALL group events for foster parents and youth have been cancelled for April. Details of each are below. Please stay tuned for additional notices.

**IMPORTANT:** Just recently we were notified that the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has provided our state leaders at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with guidance on critical issues such as face to face contacts. You know that we are required to see children and their caregivers (YOU!) face to face each month without fail in order to meet federal guidelines. If we have any concern about the safety of a child, there is no way to waive such a contact; however, the ACF allows us to use available video-conferencing technology to make routine monthly contacts **strictly for the duration of the public health crisis**. We are obligated to note such exceptions very carefully in our documentation.

Your child's social worker will be making arrangements with you to use Skype, Facetime, or whatever video chat technology is available. THANK YOU for your flexibility during these strange and trying times.

## Foster Parent In-Service Training

- We will not hold our regularly scheduled In-Service Training on April 27, 2020. Please explore FosteringNC for some excellent online training options.  
**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.*
- Meetings Cancelled. More information will be emailed if video support chat will be available.

## Foster Parent Recruitment Informational Meeting

- The April Foster Parent Recruitment Information Meetings is CANCELLED. Please watch for updates and keep others who are interested in fostering in the loop.
- **Do you have ideas for Recruitment?** Share your thoughts with: [George.Montgomery@rowancountync.gov](mailto:George.Montgomery@rowancountync.gov), [Nadean.Quarterman@rowancountync.gov](mailto:Nadean.Quarterman@rowancountync.gov), or [Holly.Mullins@rowancountync.gov](mailto:Holly.Mullins@rowancountync.gov).

## LINKS Meeting

- The LINKS meetings are SUSPENDED at this time. Watch for updates each month.

## What's Next? 2020 After the Adoption Conference

- This conference will be postponed due to COVID-19. You will be notified of the new date.

Happy  
Anniversary

No anniversaries for the month of April

