

# NEWSLETTER

## RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Hello Resource Parents!

As we move closer to the holiday season, we want to express a sincere THANK YOU to all of you. We know this year has been another tough one and as the world adjusts to all of the recent changes, unfortunately, the child welfare system has been one of the hardest hit systems. We are seeing trends that are hard to adjust to and keep up with. With more children coming into care and less resource parents getting licensed, we are all feeling the stress. Each and every one of you have stepped up in taking on more placements, caring for or providing support to other resource parents, or have spread the word on the need for more people to enter this sometimes-crazy child welfare world. We know this system is challenging and difficult to work with and work for.

We know this job can be thankless, but we also know how much the children in your care need you and how the trajectory of their lives are changing because of the love and care you are providing. Please know that above all else, we value what you are doing for the children in our community. Please continue to refer people in your network to learn more about fostering, adopting, and mentoring. The more skilled resource parents there are, the better we can all work together to support the children in our community. Thank you all for the work you are doing for our children and for our agency. We can't do this without you.

Sincerely,

The Recruitment and Training team



Nurture the Village

## DID YOU KNOW?

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 [here](#)). Please invite and inform biological parents to participate and attend appointments unless prohibited from doing so by the case manager. 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 [MonthlyMedHistoryForm-Washoe.pdf \(qpinevada.org\)](#) and email it to your caseworker.

### PERIODICITY SCHEDULE

#### Age Range

Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-5 years	6-9 years	10-14 years	15-18 years	19-20 years
Newborn Screening 2-3 days after initial hospital discharge	Screening at: 12 months of age	Screening at: 30 months of age	Screening at: 6 years of age	Screening at: 10 years of age	Screening at: 16 years of age	Screening before: 20 years of age
Screening at: 1 month of age	Screening at: 15 months of age	Screening at: 3 years of age	Screening at: 7 years of age	Screening at: 12 years of age	Screening at: 18 years of age	
Screening at: 2 months of age	Screening at: 18 months of age	Screening at: 4 years of age	Screening at: 8 years of age	Screening at: 14 years of age		
Screening at: 4 months of age	Screening at: 24 months of age	Screening at: 5 years of age	Screening at: 9 years of age			
Screening at: 6 months of age						
Screening at: 9 months of age						
<b>TOTAL Number Of Screenings By Age Range Of The Child / AAP Recommended</b>						
6	4	4	4	3	2	1

**Interperiodic Screening:** In addition, EPSDT screening exams can be requested as needed, on an interperiodic basis. This can occur when a new health problem is suspected, when a previously diagnosed condition has become more severe or changed sufficiently to require a new examination, regardless of whether the request falls into the established periodicity schedule.

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.

December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am to Noon.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

[MPolley@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MPolley@washoecounty.gov)

BRIDGES  
out of  
POVERTY



Resource Parent, relative, Fictive Kin & adoptive Connections Groups

**WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR CONNECTION GROUPS**

- **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](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** Please contact [jcasarez@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jcasarez@washoecounty.gov) or [danderson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:danderson@washoecounty.gov) for any question or if you want to attend
- **Relative Support Group:** 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](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) to be added to the invite

**REMINDER**

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

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
- Barbara Jaime: 775.842.1704
- Jessica Shepherd: 775.622.6919
- Anastasia Cooper: 775.560.7773
- Sandra Espino: 775.530.6373

**OPI Liaison:** Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646

[kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto: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.

**New Training updates:**

**QPI WEBSITE:**

[HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/](http://www.qpnevada.org/)

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

**Creating Permanency for Youth**

Youth transitioning out of foster care often come out at a disadvantage. The norm they had grown accustomed 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)

**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)

**The Trauma Cycle: How You Can Help Children and Families**

This session will define trauma and its effects on children and families. You will learn how parenting styles and behaviors from one generation influence the parentings and behaviors of the next generation. The session also discusses brain-functioning, common trauma triggers and responses we see in children and adults as well as the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, protective factors and attachment styles. (1.5 hour)

**Taking the Blame Off Kids: Understanding Systems and the Ecological Model**

Exploration of the Ecological Model as an effective way of understanding family dynamics and individual behavior within larger systems and communities. This presentation includes information specific to children and youth in foster care. (0.5 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**  
Training you need, when and where you need it.

**Top Tips for Getting a Certificate**

- No Fast Forward** (No Fast Forward icon): You will see a box beneath the video where the link to the quiz will be available. But if you fast forward anywhere in the video, the link will not be enabled.
- Avoid Cell Phone** (Cell Phone icon): You can watch any of the videos on a cell phone. BUT, beware of viewing on a cell phone if you need a certificate. You may be more likely to close the screen or restart the video which will affect your ability to access the link to the quiz.
- 3 Tries And Locked** (3 Strikes icon): You are only allowed 3 attempts to pass the quiz – even if you took the quiz months ago. If you are locked out, we will need to unlock your account before you can try again.
- Download** (Download icon): Upon passing the quiz, please download (or right click) your certificate before printing or emailing for credit.

We are here to help! We want you to have the best experience possible. If you need assistance (including unlocking your account) email [center-support@usd.edu](mailto:center-support@usd.edu) and provide us with your NAME, TITLE of the video or quiz, which STATE you reside in and the ISSUE you are having. We will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

**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.
  2. Immediately self-isolate the household until medically 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.

## Interested in Adoption?

### Samuel (“Sam”)

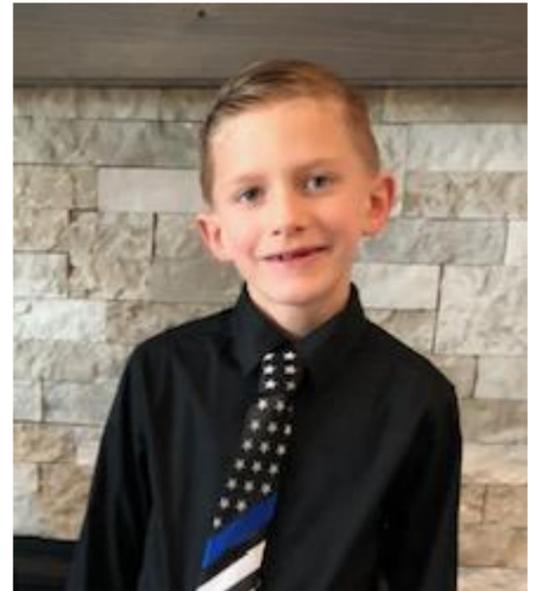
*9-years-old*

#### FLEX FAMILY

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 [Trobertson@washoecounty.us](mailto:Trobertson@washoecounty.us)



### Jacob

*14-years-old*

#### 100% FREE FOR ADOPTION

Do you like to laugh? I mean really laugh. Meet Jacob! He is ready to be adopted and is looking for a compassionate, devoted family who will commit to him unconditionally. Side note, this will include listening to and laughing at all his silly jokes. It would be a bonus if you have a dog. In addition to being a self-proclaimed jokester, Jacob will tell you he's talented. He starts out shy, but once you get to know him and he starts to trust you, you'll understand what the rest of us already know!

Jacob's foster parents describe him as a leader who is sensitive, cooperative and polite to others. He enjoys cooking with his foster dad and helping around the house. He also enjoys, going on walks, hiking, music, dancing and attending community events. His favorite foods include sushi, beef jerky, fruits and vegetables. He is an active young man who loves playing flag football, basketball and soccer and he recently began playing tackle football.

Click on the link below if you'd like to watch his Have a Heart video which aired in March 2019:  
<https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Have-a-Heart-Meet-Jacob-506545841.html>

If you would like the opportunity to hear one of Jacob's jokes or watch one of his games, please contact Tawnya Robertson at [trobertson@washoecounty.us](mailto:trobertson@washoecounty.us)

### Dustyn

*1-year-old*

#### LEGAL RISK

Meet this cute little mister, who needs a patient, nurturing and loving home.

Dustyn is an adorable, happy, and sweet toddler with a beautiful smile. He is smart, easy going and loves to play with his toys and other children. Dustyn is friendly and gets along well with his caregivers and other children and has become very fond of Mickey Mouse. This cutie is not a picky eater; he loves bananas and has become a great conversationalist in baby babble, which he uses to engage with others, as he is very social.

Dustyn needs a family that is willing to commit to providing him care, support, and unconditional love and to help him grow. He will do great in a home where he can interact with other children or be provided with opportunities to interact and socialize. To learn more about this little charming mister please contact Brenda at [Bsilis@washoecounty.gov](mailto:Bsilis@washoecounty.gov).



## Itati, Maritza, Isabel, Johana, Abraham

*15, 13, 11, 9, & 7 years-old*

---

### LEGAL RISK

---

The more the merrier is an understatement when it comes to these 5 siblings, whose biggest wish is to all live together again. Itati, Maritza, Isabel, Johana and Abraham are all described as happy and very polite and will sure bring joy to their forever family.

The children are affectionate, bonded and turn to one another for comfort. Although they have individual interests, they interact well with one another and enjoy spending time together.

Itati is the eldest and is the leader of the group, while being very protective of her siblings. Itati is a bright young woman with big dreams and even bigger goals, she dreams of attending college to become a surgeon or a social worker and dreams about visiting London someday. Itati is learning to cook and bake, enjoys playing card games, listening to music and loves frozen yogurt. She is reserved and somewhat of an introvert, but once she trusts her caregivers opens-up and her true happy self comes through.

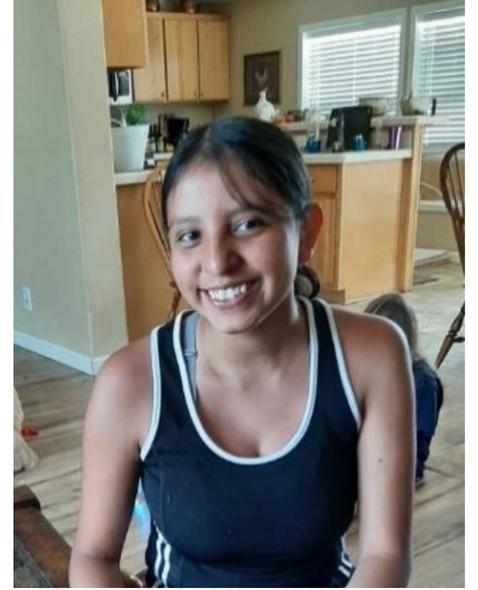
Maritza is sweet, shy, and motherly to her siblings. She enjoys going on hikes, watching movies, playing with dolls, and dressing her dolls up. Maritza dreams of going to Hawaii and Disneyland one day, as she has never been there. She loves eating Mexican, Chinese and Italian food, and is a very good eater. Maritza participated in cheerleading in the past and hopes to again be able to do so.

Isabel is a very active girly girl, who can be somewhat of a loner at times. She enjoys spending time in the garden, painting rocks, and doing arts and crafts. Isabel loves Mexican food, dislikes peanut butter and unlike most kiddos her age, she is not big on sweets. Isabel strives to be a leader but can come across as being bossy, so she is working on her socialization skills with her peers. Isabel dreams of going to Disneyland and Hawaii.

Johana is a happy, kind, and helpful young lady, who is constantly offering and wanting to help others. She is very friendly and can make and keep friends easily. Johanna enjoys playing house with her siblings, dancing, and slumber parties. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up and loves to dance. Like her siblings, Johana wants to go to Disneyland and to Hawaii. Johana dislikes meat.

Abraham is a very active young boy, who enjoys all your typical boy activities, such as building things, playing with cars and action heroes, and who plays house with his sisters very well. He is a good eater, but like most kiddos his age has a list of foods he does not like, such as beans and guacamole. Abraham is sweet and loving but continues to work on developing stranger danger. He tends to gravitate towards males, and enjoys spending time with his foster dad, probably since he has always been surrounded by so many females.

Abraham can at times struggle with managing his emotions, but overall is a loving little guy. He too is in love with the idea of someday visiting Disneyland and going to Hawaii. These siblings need a loving home, where they can feel safe, know their routine, and can just be kids. They need guidance, support and love as they continue to grow and blossom together. If you are interested in learning more about Itati, Maritza, Isabel, Johana and Abraham, please contact **Brenda** at [Bsilis@washoecounty.us](mailto:Bsilis@washoecounty.us)



## Ah'meen, Se'Kani, Ms'Layla

*Sept 2016, April 2019, June 2020 years-old*

---

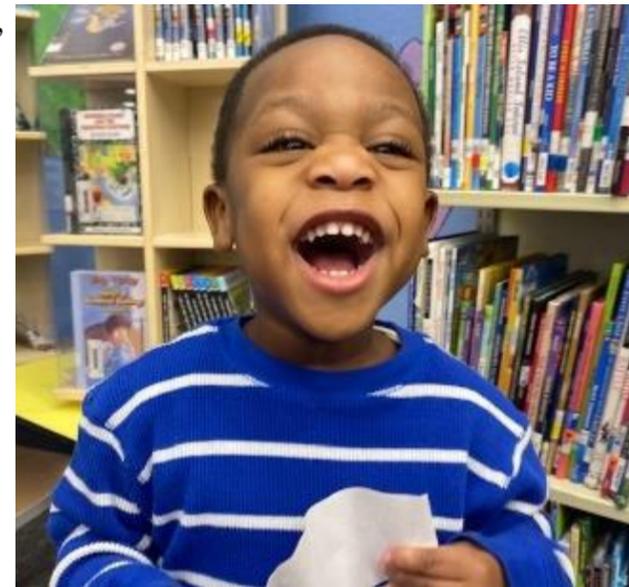
**LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME- 100% FREE**

---

These beautiful and loving siblings need a forever home where they can stay together, as they have an incredible bond with one another. Ah'meen is intelligent and extremely athletic for a 5-year-old. He loves playing sports outside, especially football, baseball and running! Ah'meen loves to be a helper, especially with chores! He loves attention and is great at giving compliments! He is inquisitive and can have amazing conversations with anyone and loves to talk all day! Ah'meen gets along well with other children and loves meeting new people. He started Kindergarten this year and loves school and homework! He is learning boundaries outside of his home and will need patience and positive praise as he grows and learns. He is a great eater and enjoys home cooked meals, although he has been excited about pizza lately! He would benefit from a family that will set loving and firm boundaries, with confidence and care.



Se'Kani, or "Kani" as he is so affectionately called, is a busy toddler. He loves playing with his toys, including his tablet, and his favorite shows are PJ Mask and Cocomelon. Kani is a happy boy, and it is not uncommon to find him waking up singing each day! He is articulate and knows his letters and numbers! Kani is sensitive and seeks affection and comfort. He enjoys big hugs and loves to verbalize his affection with "I love you". Kani has a big appetite and enjoys most foods, including sweets. Recently, he started taking big bites, so he needs support to take smaller bites. Kani loves his siblings and is very gentle with his little sister.



Ms'Layla is a busy one-year-old! She is learning to walk and is exploring the world around her, as fast as she can! Her confidence and self-assuredness is already evident in her personality. While she can look very serious, this little sweetie loves to play! She enjoys fashion and loves to go in the closet to try on shoes and hair bows! She is eating well and drinking from a sippy cup. Ms'Layla likes dogs, but is a little nervous at first, so should the prospective family have animals, she will need some support meeting them.



Ah'meen, Kani and Ms'Layla have developed a strong bond with the foster parents, and a transition to the new home will be supportive of the children's needs. All three children are in excellent physical health. A family with no other children, or children older than Ah'meen would make a great fit for these busy three! The ideal family will have patience and plenty of positive feedback. If you are interested in learning more about Ah'meen, Kani and Ms'Layla, you may contact Myra Yeargan, Case Worker, Recruitment & Training, Washoe County Human Services Agency – Children's Division. (775)560-8913

[myeargan@washoecounty.gov](mailto:myeargan@washoecounty.gov)

## Updates & Fun Facts from WCSD

Opportunity for students to shop for their family & friends!

<h3>Reindeer Lane</h3> <p>Students can shop for Holiday Gifts for their friends and family</p> <p><b>DECEMBER 6TH ~ DECEMBER 10TH</b></p> <p>Hats &amp; Gloves, Cups, Health and Beauty, Jewelry, Tools, Pet toys ~ a little something for everyone</p> <p>Plus our Library will have our annual Grassroots Bookfair</p>  <p>If you have any questions please call the DSMS Booster Club or Mrs. Arnold 1-775-674-4915</p>	<h3>Reindeer Lane</h3> <p>Los estudiantes pueden comprar regalos navidenos para sus amigos y familiares</p> <p>6 de Diciembre ~ 10 de Diciembre en nuestra biblioteca.</p> <p>Sombreros y guantes, tazas, salud y belleza, joyas, herramientas, juguetes para mascotas ~ algo para todos.</p>  <p>Ademas, nuestra biblioteca albergara nuestra Feria de Libros. Si tiene algun pregunta, por favor llame al DSMS Booster Club o a la Sra. Arnold. 1-775-674-4915</p>
--	--

**Earn college credit while taking high school dual credit courses!**

[Click here for more info](#) (enrollment steps via WCSD)

[Click here to learn more about the TMCC Jump Start/dual credit programs!](#)

**The Special Education Work Experience Program** allows high school students with disabilities to receive elective credit for employment or authorized volunteer/community service. Work Experience credit does not replace or supplement standard class credit. A student earns credit by being employed. A half-credit (0.5) is earned for every 60-180 hours worked. Credits are limited to no more than half (0.5) credit per semester. Total Work Experience credits may not exceed a maximum of three (3) over the course of a student's high school experience.

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Nevada PEP
- Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
- Sierra Regional Center (SRC)
- Now that you are 18 (A Survival Guide)

For more info, please visit [Transition Services / Department Homepage \(washoeschools.net\)](#).

**Check out the Certificate Programs offered by TMCC!**

- The [TMCC Applied Technologies Dept](#) offers several 1 - 2 year certificate programs (some Skill Certificates are only 6-8 weeks!) that provide an opportunity for our kids to get into very competitive high paying jobs with fast track programming and a lot of "hands on" learning!
- Check out the [TMCC Edison Campus](#)! They are centrally located and would be happy to show you and your student around! Seeing these programs in action is super exciting! Examples of programs include Air Conditioning (HVAC), Construction & Design, Manufacturing (Drafting, Machining, Welding) and Transportation Technologies (Automotive & Diesel), IT Specialties too!

**Jobs for Nevada's Graduates**

Nevada high school students struggle to graduate and find a pathway to a better life. Many drop out because they face seemingly insurmountable obstacles created by poverty, traumatic childhood experiences and systemic apathy. Today's students do not lack intelligence, talent, or desire, but they find it difficult to flourish without caring people and structured support systems that embrace them in community care. That's where J4NG comes in. By embedding a caring adult who can provide mentoring, support, inspiration, and workplace-readiness training in Nevada schools, J4NG helps students reach their highest potential. With a 97.7% graduation rate and 93.1% employment, college, military or a combination equaling full time, J4NG gives students a gateway to opportunity. For more info, please visit [J4NG - Jobs 4 Nevada Graduates](#).

**Nevada's Apprenticeship Project**

A unique, flexible training system that combines job related technical instruction with structured on-the-job learning experiences. Registered Apprenticeship leads the nation in preparing American workers to compete in a global 21st century economy. The system keeps pace with advancing technologies and innovations in training and human resource development. The Registered Apprenticeship system provides the opportunity for workers seeking high-skilled, high-paying jobs and for employers seeking to build a qualified workforce. In this regard, the Registered Apprenticeship system effectively meets the needs of both employers and workers. For more info, please visit [Nevada's Apprenticeship Project - Information for Students \(nvapprenticeship.org\)](#).

# Car Seat Information

There is an update going into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, regarding child passengers and safety for the state of Nevada.

As it is right now, a child passenger must use a child restraint system until they are at least 6 years old and 60 pounds. This is going to change the start of the new year. ***The state will eliminate the weight requirement and has instead replaced it with a height requirement.***

Children passengers less than 6 years old **and less than 57 inches tall**, (that's 4'9") must ride in an approved child restraint system.

They have also added that children under 2 years of age must ride in a rear-facing child safety seat.

This is the minimum requirement set forth by the state but remember that we always want to select the safest restraint system for our children.

For questions about fit or seat selection, please reach out to me.

## Buckle Up!

**The Laws of Nevada**  
Nevada Revised Statutes require front and rear seat occupants of almost all passenger vehicles to wear safety belts or ride in an approved child restraint system. (NRS 484D.495 and 484B.157)

**The Laws of Physics**  
If you crash or slam on your brakes, your car comes to a sudden stop. But you will keep moving until you, too, are stopped – by the windshield, dashboard, pavement or seat belt.

### Air Bags



Air bags are more effective when you're buckled up and can be dangerous if you're not. You should be seated at least 10" away from the air bag as measured from the center of the steering wheel to your breastbone.

Air bags should be turned off only for those with certain medical conditions, those who cannot sit 10" away and when transporting young children in the front seat.

Never place a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an air bag! Children under 12 should ride in the back.

Expectant mothers should buckle up and leave the air bag on. Never place the lap belt above or on your belly.



### Did you know?



Seven of ten child safety seats are installed improperly. Free inspections and advice are offered throughout Nevada. Call 866-SEAT-CHECK or visit [seatcheck.org](http://seatcheck.org) to find one in your area.



### Child Seat Law

Any child less than 6 years of age who is less than 57 inches tall must ride in an approved child restraint system. Children under 2 years old must ride in a rear-facing safety seat in the back seat of the vehicle. (NRS 484B.157 effective January 1, 2022)

### Best Practices

Keep children in the back seat until at least age 12. Select a car seat based on your child's age and size and use it every time.

#### Birth – 2 Years



Use a rear-facing car seat through age 1 and until your baby reaches the seat manufacturer's height and weight limits.

#### 2 – 3 Years



Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. Then use a forward-facing toddler seat with a harness until your toddler outgrows that seat's limits.

#### 4 – 7 Years



Once your child has outgrown the seat with a harness, use a booster seat until he or she is large enough for seat belts. Stay in the back seat.

#### 8 – 12 Years



Use safety belts once they fit properly. The lap belt should lie across the thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should not cross the neck or face.

### Seat Belt Tips

Never use just a lap belt across a child sitting in a booster seat designed for shoulder belts.

Never use pillows, books, or towels to boost a child. They can slide around and hit the occupant.

Never put a shoulder belt behind anyone's arm or back because it eliminates the protection for the upper part of the body and increases the risk of severe injury in a crash.

### Kids Aren't Cargo!

Passengers under 18 may not ride in the back of a pickup or flatbed truck. This does not apply to farming and ranching activity, parades or to camper shells or slide-in campers. (NRS 484B.160)



**Zero Fatalities**

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles  
Nevada Department of Transportation  
[dmv.nv.com](http://dmv.nv.com) | [zerofatalitiesnv.com](http://zerofatalitiesnv.com)

Updated September 2021

Drive Safe Nevada

## FAQ – Educational Quick Facts re. Youth in Foster Care

### INCLUDING important WCHSA policy updates!!

(Updated 9/30/21)

#### Did you know??

- **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.
  - **WHY?**
    - 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.
    - Statistically, foster youth lose an average of 6 months of education for every school move/disruption.
    - 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.
    - 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.
  - Foster Parents, relatives and fictive kid **CANNOT** change a youth's school without proper approval through WCHSA.
- **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.
  - 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.
- **STRONG COMMUNICATION IS KEY**
  - The relationship with your student's school is your first line of defense in providing support.
  - Communicate with your worker when things get confusing or challenging.
  -
- **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!
- **WCSD Board of Trustees meets (almost) every other Tuesday**, so if you would like to be "in the know" and have the opportunity to have your voice heard, please tune in! <https://www.washoeschools.net/domain/168>
- **SUPPORT:**
  - WCHSA Educational Liaison & WCSD Foster Liaison work together to support all things education! Your case worker can reach out when things get sticky!
  - **TUTORING** is always available. Be sure to check with your worker.

Washoe County  
School District  
  
Frequent Asked  
Questions.

## *Family Engagement Center & Resources*



**Holiday With A Hero:** This program is back on after COVID cancelled it last year. For 60 lucky kiddos currently being served by WCHSA, they will receive a \$100 gift card to Target and will shop with a ‘Hero’ from the Sparks Fire Dept or Sparks Police Dept. Caseworkers will nominate kiddos who they think will benefit the most. Care Providers are encouraged to help their caseworkers with nominations. The event will occur Dec. 8.

**Reunification Bags:** to reward families for their tremendous work towards reunification, gifts are presented at transition meetings through a grant for Fostering Relationships. Supplies and games are provided to the birth family in addition to the care provider.



**Fostering Relationship Events:** an email will be out soon regarding this program. Throughout late November and December, families (foster, birth, and child) will have events to choose from to enjoy together, while co-parenting. You will get to choose from Coconut Bowl/Wild Island or Galaxy Movies in Sparks. Once the email and RSVP form comes out, get it returned quickly to secure your spot.

**Books for foster care:** FEC has many books available to families who want some resources for children struggling with feelings of abandonment, trauma, and reunification. Come by the FEC to grab one.



**Pennington Grant:** 7 more shopping days are scheduled to allow all care providers to come shop for Christmas Gifts for kiddos in care. Emails have been sent out. Call the FEC 352-3230 to reserve your time/day for shopping. Ask for Ashley or Rhonda. As a reminder – kiddos should not be present for these shopping days as we encourage the gifts to be surprises.

# CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Season's Greetings Care Providers, Resource Families, Caseworkers, and others!



HO HO HO! Here we are again - the Holidays are coming fast. For those not aware, the Pennington Foundation has graciously gifted foster children in WCHSA custody an unbelievably large grant for 2021 that encompasses Supplies, Clothing, and Christmas Gifts. So far, all children have been provided access to SUPPLIES (school/educational or diapering), CLOTHING (at one of several shopping days held in Sept/Oct) and now we are ready for the final (and most exciting) portion of the grant... CHRISTMAS PRESENT shopping days! As with supplies and clothing, the Christmas portion of the grant is only available to children in WCHSA custody who reside in Northern Nevada. To sign-up for and attend a shopping day, please **open the attachment, complete it and send it back to [hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov)**.

## Important things to note:

1. **Within 3 business days of sending in your RSVP you should receive a response that your request was received and you are RSVP'd for your preferred date and time.** Please call the FEC (775-352-3230) and ask for Ashley if you need to follow up on your request or if you do not receive a confirmation email.
2. You **must check-in at the table** located inside the store to obtain your 'shopping pass' any time after 12 noon to ensure you are ready to check-out at your identified time (the time you sign up for).
3. WCHSA staff will be present at each event to assist you. You must be in the check-out line by 4:00 pm or you will need to come back another day.
4. When done shopping, you will move to one of 2 check stands with WCHSA staff who will purchase your items.
5. **Children should not be in attendance at these events – Christmas gifts should be surprises.**
6. We are only allowing one shopping day per child so all the items you choose will need to be made at that one store on that scheduled day.
7. For those that want to send pics or thank you letters to the Pennington Foundation, please email those to [hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov).

For general questions about this grant and our process, 'don't get your tinsel in a tangle', please email [hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hsa-penningtonproject@washoecounty.gov) or call the FEC (775-352-3230) and ask for Rhonda. 😊

Thank you – WCHSA hopes that everyone has an amazing holiday season filled with love, happiness, and positive co-parenting relationships. We thank you for everything you do, the support and stability you provide to the children and families of Washoe County, and the inspiration you provide to our community.

## 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.



# 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.

## *SOCCKER 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](mailto: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](mailto:mjack@csareno.org).

## *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](mailto: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.

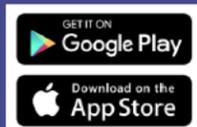
## Nevada 211 YOUTH APP

**Ages 12 to 19**  
**Easy**  
**Fast**  
**Confidential**



**SEARCH FOR LOCAL RESOURCES**  
**AT YOUR FINGERTIPS 24/7**

**DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY**



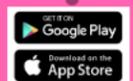
**Find help 24/7 by dialing 2-1-1**  
**texting 898-211 or**  
**visiting [www.nevada211.org](http://www.nevada211.org)**

## NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

**BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES**

**A TUS DEDOS 24/7**

¡descargue su aplicación para jóvenes Nevada 211 hoy!



- Actividades y campamentos
- Asesoramiento
- Líneas directas de crisis
- Recursos de equidad
- Alimentos de emergencia
- Refugio de emergencia
- Cuidado de la salud
- Servicios LGBTQ
- SafeVoice
- Grupos de apoyo
- Empleo juvenil



¡Y mucho más!