



November 2024



Foster Care and Adoption Newsletter

PARTNERS WITH CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES



Meet Balfoure & Anh



AFK: How did you find All For Kids and why did you choose to foster or foster-adopt through this agency?

We had conducted our initial research online and compiled a list of agencies that we wanted to look at. Ultimately, we chose All For Kids based on an orientation meeting that we attended. All For Kids has a great longstanding reputation in supporting the community and families it serves and has the resources and commitment to supporting us in this journey. All For Kids was the right choice.

AFK: What was the process of becoming a resource parent and how long did it take?

Once we decided to become resource parents, it was rather straight forward. We applied and went through the various background checks. AFK helped us throughout the process. The process was extensive, but it was also reassuring to know that AFK and DCFS were doing their jobs to properly screen families.

AFK: What inspired you to become resource parents, and how has it changed your life?

Several years into our marriage, we discussed having children together and both agreed that adoption was a consideration. Although we weren't considering fostering, All For Kids orientation showed us how resource families were needed, and we took a chance and became approved.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

November is National Adoption Awareness Month

November is National Adoption Awareness Month, a time for us to come together and shine a light on the incredible commitment of our foster and foster-adoptive parents.



We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering dedication and stable support for children in need is nothing short of admirable, and it plays a crucial role in their journey toward finding a loving and secure home.

Annual "Ask a Scientist" at UCLA

Sunday, November 3, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. UCLA Court of Sciences

Location: UCLA Court of Sciences 617 Charles E. Young Drive East Los Angeles, CA 90095

Join us for over 50 interactive science booths, science talks, "Ask a Scientist" Q&A panels, a planetarium, nighttime telescopes, as well as an award ceremony presenting a special guest with the Science and Education Pioneer Award. All activities are held by real scientists and organized by UCLA volunteers. Admission is free but registration is required.

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Kickoff Celebration

Special kickoff to EYU at the beginning of the event by Dean Miguel Garcia-Garibay of the Division of Physical Sciences at UCLA including a presentation of the 2022 Science and Education Pioneer Awareness Award.

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Hands-On Experiments and Demos at the Science Booths

We have booths across all the science disciplines including astronomy, chemistry, engineering, geology, math, statistics, physics, and more! Come and learn about science through hands-on activities and exhibits. All materials provided.

12:45 PM - 4:30 PM Science Talks

Science talks are 30-minute science presentations for all ages followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. We will delve into topics such as The Search for Life Outside of Earth. Come learn from award-winning UCLA scientists for free!

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Planetarium + Telescopes

UCLA Division of Astronomy and Astrophysics will offer planetarium shows. Graduate students will point you toward some of the fascinating objects we can see from Los Angeles, such as planets, binary stars, nebulae, global clusters and more. Note: Due to limited capacity, visitors must reserve tickets in advance at the planetarium booth at EYU!

Exploring Your Universe (EYU) is an all-ages science fair held at UCLA Court of Science and the largest science outreach event in Los Angeles. On the first Sunday in November, over 50+ science booths, solar and nighttime telescopes, planetarium shows, and science talks come together to bring a fun, interactive science learning experience for K-12 students geared for all ages (K-12+ and backgrounds.)

Last year's booths featured hands-on experiments, such as making flying toy rockets, as well as exhibits like the Meteorite Gallery. There were also special attractions like the Sundae Science: Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream Extravaganza and the Are We Alone in the Universe? presentations.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

Seven Strategies of Effective Parenting



Parenting is one of the most challenging and rewarding roles we can experience. The journey is filled with joy, challenges, learning, and growth, both for the parent and the child. To be effective as parents, we need to adopt certain strategies that promote a nurturing environment, foster healthy communication, and help children grow into independent, responsible adults. Below, we explore seven key strategies of effective parenting that can make a real difference in your family's life.

1. Be Consistent with Boundaries and Discipline

One of the most crucial aspects of effective parenting is setting consistent boundaries and enforcing discipline in a fair, firm manner. Children thrive when they understand the expectations and limits set by their parents. Consistency helps them feel secure, knowing the consequences of their actions will remain the same, regardless of the situation. Inconsistent boundaries, on the other hand, lead to confusion and often result in behavioral problems.

Key Practices:

- Set clear rules: Make sure your children understand the rules of the house, and what behavior is expected of them.
Follow through with consequences: If a rule is broken, enforce appropriate and pre-determined consequences.
Balance firmness with love: Disciplinary actions should always come from a place of care, not frustration.

Consistency in parenting builds a sense of accountability and helps children understand the relationship between actions and consequences.

2. Foster Open and Honest Communication

Effective communication forms the foundation of a strong parent-child relationship. Being open and available to talk to your children encourages them to express their feelings, ask questions, and come to you with problems, knowing that they will be heard without judgment.

Key Practices:

- Listen actively: Show genuine interest in what your children are saying, and avoid interrupting.
Create a safe space: Ensure your children know they can talk to you about anything without fear of reprimand.
Model positive communication: Show your children how to handle emotions and difficult conversations through your own behavior.

Click below to read the remaining five strategies.

CLICK HERE FOR THE REMAINING FIVE STRATEGIES

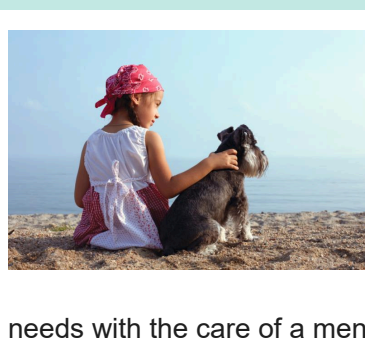
California Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis Does Not Affect All For Kids



All For Kids Remains Insured

Many Foster Family Agencies are currently in crisis due to their insurance being canceled. All For Kids has a stable, ongoing insurance company and wishes to reassure your family that our agency is in compliance with all regulations and that our insurance is intact. All For Kids services to you and your family will continue uninterrupted.

November is National Child Mental Health Month



Is Your Child Displaying Behavioral or Emotional Distress? All For Kids can help.

All For Kids is here to help young children, adolescents, and youth (ages 0 to 21) and their families find ways to decrease potential outbursts and violence in the home as well as aid in the development of appropriate social skills. We hope to meet every child's behavioral health treatment needs with the care of a mental health professional.

All For Kids provides a wide range of counseling for kids and behavioral health services for children including a comprehensive assessment of your child's behavior, child abuse therapy, family-focused therapy, individual counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy and group therapy sessions. Additionally, our behavioral health counseling center offers intensive day treatment for young children to monitor their daily activities, medication management, case management assistance, therapeutic behavioral health services, as well as assistance to the significant caretakers and support person(s) in the child's life. By extending our child counseling services and behavioral health resources, All For Kids hopes to give families and children the tools they need to begin children's therapy services.

Our counseling for children is culturally sensitive with a substantial focus on the Latino community. Behavioral health therapy services are being delivered to children and their parents via telehealth and in person in the home, school, office or community. We're also making it easy for families to review and sign paperwork electronically. As always, our services are delivered with care and privacy.

CLICK HERE TO REQUEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Levels of Care and Stipend Update

Levels of Care for Resource Parents Adoption Supports and Services Before and After Adoption.

Since 2017, the state of California has been implementing interim Level of Care (LOC) rates for foster families. Currently, resource parents receive a beginning stipend of \$1,206 per month for their care of a child in foster care.

After 30 - 60 days in care, an LOC evaluation occurs which determines the level of support the child needs and the original stipend rate may or may not increase.

Support of a child may be defined by the amount of family time required, youth requiring higher levels of behavioral health supports, and youth needing other more therapeutic and intensive services which necessitate a higher stipend rate.

In addition to the LOC rate for the child, some families will receive a Special Increment Rate (SCI) tier. This is paid when the needs of the child require additional support for medical or behavioral needs. When a child is from Los Angeles County, the SCI is paid to the family is based on the county the resource family resides. An example of a SCI tier 2 rate occurs if you live in LA County, which is \$600; in Ventura County \$475; in Kern County \$525; and in Riverside County \$300. Not all counties pay this SCI rate. Please speak with your social worker if you have any questions.

All children in foster care receive medical and dental coverage through Medi-Cal.

The California State Legislature created the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) with the intent to provide the security and stability of a permanent family through adoption. AAP eligible children may receive federally funded benefits or non-federally funded benefits per state guidelines. Children who have experienced trauma and are adopted from the foster care system usually qualify for this program. The rate will remain in place until the child turns 18-21 years of age. The child can remain on Medi-Cal for medical and dental benefits until 18-21 years old.

Adoption Support and Promotion Services (APSS) is a wonderful program offered by Los Angeles County to offer support to families who are fostering a child whose plan is permanency through adoption or a family who has completed an adoption of a child or children. The support may include a support worker, mentor, referrals for additional services, and support group.

Learn How to Become a Foster or Foster-Adopt Family



Attend an Orientation or Complete Online PowerPoint

All For Kids is now offering a PowerPoint online foster care-adoption resource parent orientation that you can review at your own pace.

For those who wish to attend a live virtual orientation, an English Zoom Orientation meeting will take place on November 21st at 4:00 p.m. and will last one hour. Find out what to expect from the orientation by clicking here.

If you prefer a Spanish PowerPoint orientation, a Spanish Orientation can be emailed to you. Please give us a call at 800-730-3933 to request the Spanish Orientation. A bi-lingual staff member will assist you throughout the process. A short Spanish YouTube video describing this orientation can be found here.

Please email Rfrecruitment@allforkids.org or click here to request the PowerPoint Orientation or to sign up for the Zoom orientation.

Completing either orientation will officially begin your process of becoming a foster or foster-adopt parent. We hope that you will take action to foster children and make a difference in your community.

Our application is now available online; please click the button below. Once completed, it may be mailed to rfrecruitment@allforkids.org Please visit our website where you will find more information about becoming a resource parent. All For Kids offers free online training via Foster Parent College.

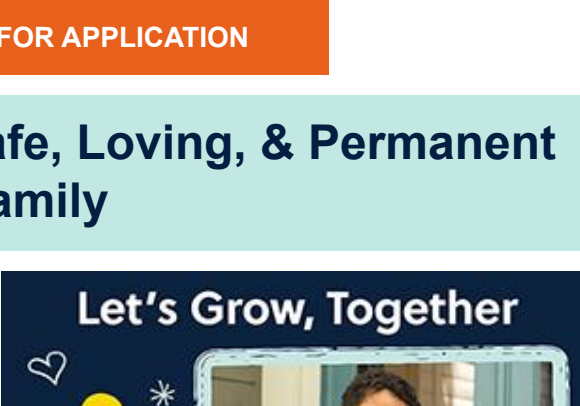
Please email beatrizcruz@allforkids.org for assistance.

CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION

Siblings Deserve a Safe, Loving, & Permanent Family

There is an Urgent Need for Resource Families to Help Children in Foster Care

Foster and adoptive resource parents are needed for children entering foster care on a daily basis. In Los Angeles County alone, the foster care population exceeds 25,000 children with 200 of those foster children waiting for an adoptive family. Many of these children are siblings in need of families who are willing and able to keep them together. In fact, All For Kids turns away at least 10 sibling sets weekly due to lack of families.

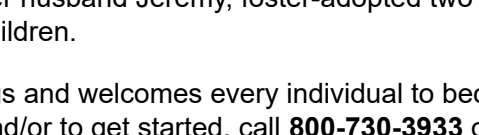


"Being a resource parent lets you help someone in their time of need. You're the support system for a child and for their parents," says Brittany, who with her husband Jeremy, foster-adopted two sibling children in addition to their three biological children.

All For Kids offers trainings and welcomes every individual to become a resource for children. For questions and/or to get started, call 800-730-3933 or click here to complete a quick inquiry form.

VISIT THE FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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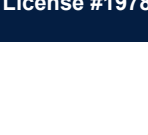


PARTNERS WITH CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES



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