

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
Melissa Tharpe, Editor

September 2009 Edition

Some Good Ways to Talk

reprinted from 4parents.gov

Want your son or daughter to know your values and beliefs about sex? It's simple – tell him or her. If you can do a good job talking with your son or daughter, and building a strong relationship, you can help keep him or her safe and healthy. The two most important things to communicate are: "I love you and will always love you" and "I have expectations for your behavior."

Here are seven important parts of the many conversations you will have with your son or daughter. For each, we point out the right way and the wrong way to communicate.

The Right Way

Address the problem – talk about the issue, the problem, the behavior, and the decision.

Make eye contact and pay attention to what your son or daughter is saying.

Listen when your son or daughter speaks.

Point out good things about your son or daughter.

Be firm and clear in telling your son or daughter what you believe.

Let your son or daughter know you want to hear what he or she has to say.

Clearly state your expectations. Setting expectations for your son's or daughter's behaviors lets them know you believe they can make smart and healthy choices.

The Wrong Way

Attack the person – Make your son or daughter feel you think there is something WRONG with him or her.

Sit or stand in a way that looks like you are not paying attention, don't care, or don't value what your son or daughter has to say.

Interrupt when your son or daughter speaks.

Point out bad things about your son or daughter.

Tell your son or daughter different things when you talk at different times. Make it sound like your values have changed.

Do or say things that make your son or daughter think you are not interested in his or her thoughts and opinions.

Do not let your son or daughter know your expectations. Your son or daughter will not know what you think is right or wrong.

We know it can be hard to make time to talk with your son or daughter. That's very true if you have to work a lot. But do the best you can. Give your son or daughter as much of your time as you can. Remember it's not just talking. It's being available for your child, pre-teen, or teen. One other thing: when you see your children do something right, tell them. They'll be more likely to do it again.

READ THIS!

Financial changes in the IV-E Adoption Assistance or State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy

Families receiving IV-E Adoption Assistance or State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy should have received letters from the custodial agency advising of changes in cash assistance. **Families are encouraged to carefully read the letters and promptly respond.** County agencies are individually dealing with the reductions; therefore it is important to contact the fiscal person for any questions you may have.

Other changes include: Non-recurring expenses (which is a one-time reimbursement to families for expenses incurred during the pre-placement visitation period) and attorney & court fees for legalization have been reduced from \$2000 to \$1000.

Funding for Post Adoption Special Service Subsidies (PASSS) fortunately have survived the budget cuts. Families continue to be eligible for up to \$10,000 per year for needed services. As always, the funds for this program must be applied for through the county agency where the family resides. Funds are available on a “first-come-first-served” basis at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1.

Brian Needs a Family

See Brian in action on www.noas.com

Brian is sixteen, a charming and likable eleventh grader who is attending a specialized school this year—to give him the support and special needs services to develop at his own level. He enjoys school very much, he says, and has some new friends there. He has a new scooter that he is extremely proud of, and he wants to learn to do stunts on ramps with it someday. His scooter is one of his favorite ways to play outside. He keeps the chrome well-polished so that it is ready to go, year-round.

Another favorite pastime of Brian's is playing chess, checkers, or cards. He loves crazy eights, 21, UNO, rummy, and solitaire. He likes Wii games on his TV, video and some board games, too. Recently he had a fun day at Chuck E. Cheese. He loved trying out all the games and amusements there for the first time.

In summer he likes doing “cannonballs” off a diving board into a swimming pool. He favors having lots of equipment for swimming goggles, flippers, a life vest, a mask, and maybe a snorkel. He likes to be the center of attention at the pool with friends, other campers, or classmates—even laughing at himself good naturedly or taking on a dare to make the biggest splash off the board.

Brian likes camping and fishing. He adds that if he could have a wish granted, that taking karate lessons would top his wish list, perhaps a good way to improve large motor coordination skills. Brian also loves going to zoos and museums, good family fun while learning and seeing something new.

Brian has been studying the Bible, and hopes to keep attending a Pentecostal, Baptist, or protestant youth or study group at church. He reads the Bible at night before going to sleep. He wants world peace and family peace, and non-violent ways of living.

Brian likes to draw cartoons with little kids in mind, working on the well-known VeggieTale character, Larry the Cucumber. He encouragingly explains humorously to any young would-be artists, “If you can make half an oval or connect it, you've got Larry!” Brian often helps people smile, including himself!



He is thinking about an adoptive church-going family, something he wants very much and very soon. He says that a “protective dad and a caring mom” are very important. His foster parents say that he helps out with family tasks and chores with a helpful and cheerful attitude. They enjoy the upbeat attitude they have experienced with him and find that Brian adds a happy, helpful note to their family life. His social worker adds, “He's just a good kid!” How would Brian fit into your caring family circle?

Find out more about adopting Brian. Call Cary Sanders at 1-800-596-8460.

Faces of Adoption is on TV!

See Tylor on



See Josh on



Visit noas.com to see more Faces of Adoption segments.



(Pictured l to r) Pastor Steve Spurlock of First Baptist Church, Maria Reibestein, Melanie Jones, Permanency Planning Specialist at Northeast Ohio Adoption Services, and Margie Brown, Vacation Bible School coordinator for First Baptist Church)

First Baptist Vacation Bible School volunteer Maria Reibestein of Newton Falls Delivers School Supplies for NOAS Kids

Maria Reibestein, a member of First Baptist Church of Newton Falls, volunteered at Vacation Bible School in July, helping out with children from pre-school through 6th grade.

Maria, who will be 18 soon, is an Interior Design student at Trumbull Career and Technical Center. She also volunteers on community service projects for Girl Scout Troop 236.

Maria wanted to be helpful to children in foster care. She helped collect funds from Bible School kids and families. She says, "I collected \$127 and bought school supplies myself. I like knowing I can help out. I know what it is like, sometimes, to be a foster child."

Maria and Pastor Steve Spurlock worked through NOAS Permanency Planning Specialist Melanie Jones to deliver the supplies that Maria shopped for. Maria loves art projects, and chose not only paper and notebooks to give away, but lots of colorful art supplies.

If school children served by NOAS are in need of extra supplies for the new school year, just call Melanie Jones at 330-856-5582, ext. 125 to arrange to pick some up at the Warren office.

And Maria and First Baptist friends, on behalf of NOAS kids, everyone says thanks so much for your project and your contribution!

NEW SUPPORT GROUP LISTING



Guardian Angels Support Group
 East Fairfield United Methodist Church
 45675 St. Rte. 558
 New Waterford, Ohio 44445

Six years ago, Kelly Harding formed a Christian faith based support group for families who are raising a special needs child. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the address listed above. She strongly feels that when a child with special needs enters the family, the family itself becomes a special needs family. Her support group is comprised of 50% foster and adoptive families from various agencies in the surrounding area. All family members are encouraged to attend the support group (childcare is provided) and the family outings that are planned. If you would like more information regarding this support group, please call Kelly at #330-482-4630. She will be happy to answer any of your questions. There is no registration required for attendance.



Adoption Network Cleveland

General Meetings

Please come and join us at our monthly support group for anyone who has been touched by adoption. Our group participants include adult adoptees, birthparents and siblings, current and prospective adoptive and/or foster parents, professionals and others interested in lifelong adoption issues.

General Meeting Schedule April to December 2009

Location	Meeting Details	Meeting Dates
Rocky River Location West Shore Unitarian Church 20401 Hilliard Boulevard Rocky River, Ohio 44116 7:30 to 9:30 pm	The Rocky River meeting is held the 1 st Thursday of each month.	April 2 May 7 June 4 July 2 August 6 September 3 October 1 November 5 December 3
Summit County Location Akron General Health & Wellness Center 4125 Medina Road Akron, Ohio 44333 7:30 to 9:30 pm	The Summit County meeting is held the 2 nd Wednesday of each month.	April 8 May 13 June 10 July 8 August 12 September 9 October 14 November 11 December 9
Heights Location **NEW LOCATION** Church of the Saviour 2537 Lee Road Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 7:30 to 9:30 pm	The Heights meeting is held on the 3 rd Thursday of each month.	April 16 May 21 June 18 July 16 August 20 September 17 October 15 November 19 December 17
Lake County Location Deepwood North Apartments Rental Office 8100 Deepwood Boulevard Mentor, Ohio 44060 7:30 to 9:30 pm	The Lake County meeting is held the LAST Tuesday of each month.	April 28 May 26 June 30 July 28 August 25 September 29 October 27 November 24 December 29

Adoption Network Cleveland's meetings offer a supportive environment in which to discuss all aspects of adoption. Our goal is to provide a safe place for all to share openly and honestly.

www.adoptionnetwork.org

HAPPY ADOPTION DAY!

One of the happiest days of a child's life is the day he or she becomes a member of an adoptive family.

Kevin and Melissa B. adopted Braiden on 9/3/2009

Congratulations!

Got Training?

Lifebooks

Saturday, October 17, 2009
9am - 12pm
Presented by: Cynthia Wallis
Family & Community Services, INC
705 Oakwood St. Suite 221
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
To register call: (330) 298-1102

Tuesday, December 1, 2009
6pm - 9pm
Presented by Cynthia Wallis
Summit Co. CS Educational
264 S. Arlington St.
Akron, Ohio 44306
To register call: (330) 379-9094

Caring for the Sexually Abused Child

Part One

Tuesday, October 20, 2009
6pm - 9pm
Presented by Bert Nero
Renkert Building
300 Market Ave.
North Canton, Ohio 44702
To register for either session, call: (330) 452-4661

Part Two

Tuesday, October 27, 2009
6pm - 9pm
Presented by Robin Tener
Renkert Building
300 Market Ave.
North Canton, Ohio 44702

Psychotropic Medications: Questions to Ask About Kids on Meds

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
6pm - 9pm
Presented by Stacy Simera
Renkert Building
300 Market Ave.
North Canton, Ohio 44702
To register call: (330) 452-4661

Saturday, October 24, 2009
1pm - 4pm
Presented by Stacy Simera
Trumbull County CSB
2282 Reeves Rd. N.E.
Warren, Ohio 44483
To register call: (330) 372-2010

Discipline in Foster Care: Managing Our Behaviors to Manage Theirs

Saturday, October 24, 2009
9am - 4pm
Presented by Katie Terry
Mahoning County CSB
222 W. Federal St., 4th FL
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
To register call: (330) 941-8888

Saturday, November 7, 2009
9am - 4pm
Presented by Katie Terry
Trumbull County CSB
2282 Reeves Rd. N.E.
Warren, Ohio 44483
To register call: (330) 372-2010

Educational Advocacy

Monday, November 9, 2009
5pm - 8pm
Presented by Ronna Johnson
Mahoning County CSB
222 W. Federal St., 4th FL
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
To register call: (330) 941-8888

Developmental Delays of Foster Children

Tuesday, November 24, 2009
6pm - 9pm
Presented by Cynthia Wallis
Keyes Family Service Center
465 N. Market St.
East Palestine, Ohio 44413
To register call (330) 424-1471