



Florida State FAPA

2011 FSFAPA Annual Conference

The 2011 Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association Annual Conference, along with the NexGen teen conference, will be held June 16-18 at Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida. Keynote speakers will be David Lawrence, Jr. from The Children's Movement of Florida and Deborah E. Polston, author and adoptive mother. This annual event features 30 training hours and draws foster and adoptive families from across Florida, as well as CBC employees and others who are dedicated to the safety and well-being of foster children.

The registration form is included in



this newsletter. Please contact your local community-based care organization about available scholarships.

Questions? Contact Maria Bond at mbond@fapapbc.org or Trudy Petkovich at petkovij@me.com.

FSFAPA SEEKS NOMINATIONS:

Foster and adoptive parents interested in seeking a position on the FSFAPA board may send in nominations now. The Vice President, Executive Vice President, Secretary and all Regional Vice President positions are up for nominations. Please view the Nomination Form inside this newsletter for criteria and deadlines.

MONTHLY CONFERENCE

CALL: FSFAPA conducts a conference call the first Monday of each month for all foster parents. Join the Yahoo group (FLFPA) at flfpa@yahoogroups.com to be notified each month of the call.

First Monday, 8:30–9:30 p.m.
Call-in Number: 888.808.6959
PIN: 9229094

Questions to Ask When Called About A Placement

The following are 10 questions that foster parents may ask when called about a placement:

1. Age and Grade of Child: This will dictate what resources you will need to parent the child.
2. Reason for Coming into Care: Helps to know what you can and cannot handle.
3. Placed from Where: Is the child coming from birth home, group home or another foster home?
4. Disruption: If the child disrupted the last placement, ask to speak to the previous foster parents.
5. Number of Moves: A child bouncing from home to home can be a sign of a child with many needs.
6. Race: Take into account your community and school district where the child will spend his/her time.
7. Special Needs: Does the child have prescription medication, glasses/hearing aids or other needs?
8. Siblings: Gives you a good reference point so you know who the child is referring to.
9. Known Behaviors: Does the child hit when angry? Does the child act out sexually?
10. School Needs: Does the child have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)? Is the child struggling or have occupational needs?

(Excerpt from About.com)

For more suggested tips, contact us at fsfapanewsletter@gmail.com and FSFAPA will email you "14 Key Placement Questions" and "Ten Steps to Being an Effective Self-Advocate."

Voter Registration Form

ALL foster/adoptive parents are automatically members of the Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association. However, in order to vote in any election, you must register with this form. Please print clearly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: Home _____ Other _____

Are you a Foster Parent? _____ Are you an Adoptive Parent? _____

If you are not registered, you will not be able to vote.

Send application by snail mail to:

Trudy Petkovich, 21731 SW 97 Court, Cutler Bay, FL 33190

Send by e-mail to:

petkovij@me.com

FSFAPA
Kimberly Hernandez
President
11038 Lynn Lake Circle
Tampa, FL 33615

F.A.S.T.

FSFAPA has a Foster Allegation Support Team (F.A.S.T.) hotline. This toll-free hotline, 800.327.8119, is available 24 hours, seven days a week to foster parents impacted by abuse allegations.

Contact FSFAPA at 866.913.0977 or visit us online at www.floridafapa.org.