

# The Adams County Foster Care Connection

VOLUME 7 | NOVEMBER 2021



## Connecting with a child in need!



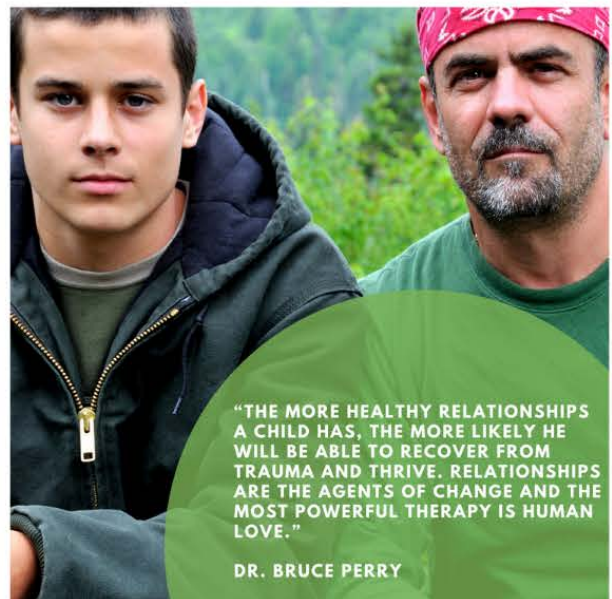
Are you looking to grow your family? We have just the kid for you! N.T. is a 12-year-old boy looking for an adoptive family. Is your family one that enjoys outdoor pursuits? Hiking? Camping? Wilderness Activities? N.T. does and would love a family who also enjoys these outdoor activities. N.T. is also interested in reading and does very well in school. He has a fun sense of humor and has good communication skills. He loves learning about different countries and would love to travel someday, outside of Colorado.

N.T. is aware of his emotional state and can communicate when he needs some alone time and space. He has been diagnosed with Autism and would do best in a calm family setting, being the only child or with much older children. N.T. does not do well around animals, and it would be best if his family did not have any. If you or someone you know would be a good fit for N.T. please reach out to Rishell Hessing at

**[RHessing@adcogov.org](mailto:RHessing@adcogov.org)** or McKenna Hynes at **[MHynes2@adcogov.org](mailto:MHynes2@adcogov.org)**

NOVEMBER IS

National  
Adoption  
Month



"THE MORE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS A CHILD HAS, THE MORE LIKELY HE WILL BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM TRAUMA AND THRIVE. RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE AGENTS OF CHANGE AND THE MOST POWERFUL THERAPY IS HUMAN LOVE."

DR. BRUCE PERRY

# Connect with Training, in KP's Korner

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## Some advice on Authentic Listening from NTDC

Some advice on Authentic Listening from NTDC...

Authentic Listening involves three basic steps, which should be followed one after the other; don't jump to the next step until you've completely fulfilled the previous step.

The three steps are:

1. Listening attentively to what the other person is saying without interrupting them.
2. Feeding back your understanding of what the person is saying and feeling.
3. Checking with them to confirm that you have understood correctly.

Authentic Listening conveys empathy and allows the child to feel validated and heard. This is especially important when talking about sensitive or painful topics with children. It is also important for you to remain calm and empathetic as you listen to the child talk about their story. This conveys to the child their feelings and experiences are important, they are respected, and they matter. Children who have experienced trauma and loss may never have been given these messages, so your attention to them and validation of their feelings is very important.



K.P. Longton  
Foster Parent Trainer/Coach  
[KLongtone@adcogov.org](mailto:KLongtone@adcogov.org)





# Respite Rules

## 7.708.31.1 SUBSTITUTE CARE, RESPITE CARE, AND ALTERNATIVE CARE

- Substitute care is provided in the foster home where the child/youth in foster care resides.
- Respite care is provided in another foster home.
- Alternative care is provided in the home of a natural support identified by the foster parent.

### **When substitute, respite or alternative care is needed the following apply:**

At least 72 business hours' notice must be provided to the caseworker and GAL. If an emergency or an urgent situation arises, the foster parent shall provide notice to the caseworker and GAL as soon as possible.

Caregivers may not consent to activities requiring a consent form or safety gear for high risk activities as defined by the custodial county. Current procedures must be followed by the foster parent to obtain these permissions prior to the activity occurring.

Caregivers must ensure that all requirements must be met, related to:

- Family time
- Sibling time
- Treatment for the child/youth
- School for the child/youth
- Contact between child/youth and the caseworker or GAL

### **Substitute care**

#### **Care up to eight (8) hours**

- Provider of substitute care must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- Exceptions based on age and maturity can be made with concurrence of the foster parent and the certifying authority, but in no case should the provider of substitute care be less than fourteen (14) years of age.

#### **Care for more than eight (8) hours or overnight**

- Provider of substitute care must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- Provider of substitute care must be certified in CPR and First Aid and the following checks must be completed:
  - Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
  - State Department's automated system (TRAILS-child abuse/neglect checks)
  - CBI (Colorado) Sex Offender and National Sex Offender Public Website name and address checks
- A copy of the substitute care provider's driver's license, vehicle registration, and insurance must be given to the certifying agency before the substitute care provider can driver the child/youth in foster care.

# Respite Care

Respite care is provided in a foster care home, other than the current foster care home where the child/youth resides. Respite care is used to allow the foster parent a temporary break from providing care. Respite care is also used when children/youth in foster care need a temporary break from their current foster care home.

The following conditions apply:

- A non-emergency respite care occasion may not exceed thirty (30) calendar days, with a maximum of sixty (60) days per calendar year. Exceptions in excess of sixty (60) days per year may be allowed and must be approved by the certifying agency, caseworker, and GAL.
  - Non-emergency respite care may not exceed the capacity of the respite foster care home.
  - A sibling group may be considered a single placement
  - Space requirements in respite foster home apply
- Emergency respite care that causes the foster care home to exceed the identified capacity shall not occur for more than seven (7) consecutive days per month and not exceed twenty eight (28) days in a calendar year.
- The respite foster care home may not exceed more than two (2) children/youth in foster care above their identified capacity and age range.
- The respite foster care home must be in compliance with all other applicable rules regulating foster care homes.

# Alternative Care

- Alternative care is provided outside of the foster home by an individual(s) with whom the foster parent has a personal association or relationship with. This is known as a natural support and it enhances the quality and security of life, including but not limited to, family relationships, friendships, and relationships developed through participation in clubs, organizations, and other civic activities. The following conditions apply:
  - Alternative care (natural support) may be provided outside of the foster care home for up to 72 consecutive hours with a maximum of seven (7) days a month, unless approved by the caseworker, and GAL.
  - An alternative care (natural support) provider must be familiar with the child/youth
  - Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age
  - Before alternative care (natural support) is used overnight, the foster parent shall introduce the alternative care provider and the child/youth placed in foster care and arrange for the child/youth to visit the alternative care provider's home.
- An alternative care (natural support) consent form (state prescribed) must be completed between the foster parent and the alternative care provider prior to the care being provided to the child/youth.
- The caseworker must review the consent form and complete the following background checks for all adults residing in the alternative care home:
  - Colorado Courts (state judicial database),
  - CBI (Colorado) Sex Offender name and address check
  - National Sex Offender Public Website name and address check.
  - A CBI and FBI fingerprint-based criminal history record information check is required only if the adult has resided in Colorado less than five (5) years.
  - Trails (child abuse/neglect) Check
- The caseworker must obtain the following paperwork for the alternative care (natural support) or respite care provider(s) before the alternative care provider can drive the child/youth:
  - Driver's license(s)
  - Vehicle registration
  - Vehicle insurance

# Colorado Foster Youth Sibling Bill of Rights

## I Have the Right:

- To live in the same home as my siblings if possible
  - To live near my siblings if we can't live together
  - To stay in temporary (respite) placements together
  - To live with foster parents and work with caseworkers who are trained in the importance of sibling relationships
  - To see and talk to my siblings in person, by phone, through social media, or in other electronic ways
  - To be a part of my siblings' lives and celebrate special occasions together - like birthdays, holidays, graduations, and other important events
  - To be able to talk and visit with my siblings in a natural setting with privacy, even if my contact with others is more limited
  - To have contact with my siblings that is not limited to the times when I have contact with my parents
  - To be told why I cannot live with, talk to, or see my siblings if I am not able to do so.
- To be told when my siblings who are in foster care experience big life events, like emergencies or changes in their living situations
  - To be included in permanency planning meetings for my siblings when appropriate
  - To be given updated contact information for my siblings (like phone numbers, addresses, emails and social media accounts) based on what's appropriate with my siblings' placements
  - To receive updated photos of siblings regularly
  - To have continued sibling contact encouraged if my siblings or I are going to be adopted by separate homes
  - To help my caseworker make a plan that lists how my siblings and I will see and talk to each other.
  - To expect that my GAL will advocate for me to have contact with my siblings if it is in my best interest

**There are adults in my life who set rules and limits to make sure my activities and the people in my life are safe and appropriate. These sibling rights depend on what those adults decide is best for me and my siblings.**

\*\*\*Visits with siblings cannot be used as a form of punishment for behavior issues.

**If I have questions or need help, I can speak with a member of my case team, ask another adult I trust, or contact project Foster Power at 303-692-1165 or [projectfosterpower@childlawcenter.org](mailto:projectfosterpower@childlawcenter.org).**







# foster source

December 4, 2021 9:30 a.m. (MST)  
Live Online Grief Training Moderated by Stacey Sanders  
Registration is required @ [fostersource.org](https://fostersource.org)

Grief is woven into the fabric of our life experience. It's safe to assume foster parents will experience grief on many levels as they engage in this powerful work.

This two-hour discussion is a consideration of how grief impacts the body and mind in very unique and yet predictable ways.

- We will shed light on how our personal experience of grief may impact our involvement as foster parents.
- We'll discuss the objective of resiliency, the importance of modeling self-care, and the myths of grief that can keep us locked in a cycle of uncomfortable emotions and behaviors.

By aerating our grief, we may then be able to untangle it from further stress and struggle, so we may move forward with our lives in a more whole and integrated way.

## TRAINING OPTIONS from your own home!

- Foster, adoptive, and kinship parents in Colorado can access free personal and professional development training online through The Foster Care Institute.
- The Foster Care Institute offers over 55 online webinars and nine ebooks on a variety of topics related to foster care.

### Foster Care Institute Dr. John DeGarmo

To access training email Dr. DeGarmo at [drjohndegarmo@gmail.com](mailto:drjohndegarmo@gmail.com)

Let him know you are a foster parent, adoptive parent, or kinship caregiver located in Colorado.



## BLOOM YOGA

Building Brighter Childhoods

Bloom Yoga offers mindfulness practices, promoting self-awareness and self-management skills for adults, families, and children alike.

### Children's Yoga

Studies have also shown centered, calm, and focused children learn more easily, have better social skills, and, in general, are happier kids!

### Family Yoga

Family yoga focuses on positively impacting family functioning and resilience, nurturing and attachment, social and emotional development, self-regulation, coping skills, and awareness.

[illuminatecolorado.org](https://illuminatecolorado.org)

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# foster source

## Join Foster Source on the Fourth Saturday of Every Month



Connection Group  
[fostersource.org](https://fostersource.org)  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Start your weekend off with a good dose of self-care. Talk to or just listen to other foster parents as we explore the current joys and challenges we face. Leave feeling understood and supported. Mingle with other foster parents in your area. Exchange information and make respite plans.



## Adams County Foster Care Sensory Lending Library

In Partnership with:



# Lending Library Launched!

Borrowing privileges with the Adams County Foster Care/Foster Source's sensory lending library are extended free of charge to Adams County Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship parents.

To to borrow materials from the sensory lending library, users must register for an account by submitting a request to [fostercare@adcogov.org](mailto:fostercare@adcogov.org).



## Advisory Council Update

- We have six foster parents applications.
- Seeking more foster parents "to serve on the advisory council."

Would you like to help strengthen the partnership between foster and kinship families with Adams County Foster Care?

ADAMS COUNTY KIDS

ADAMS COUNTY FOSTER CARE IS SEEKING PASSIONATE FOSTER AND KINSHIP PARENTS TO SERVE ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO HELP BETTER INFORM OUR AGENCY OF THE NEEDS OF FOSTER AND KINSHIP PARENTS.

**FOSTER AND KINSHIP PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Can you:**

- ✓ Meet one weeknight per month from 6-9 p.m. over Zoom
- ✓ Commit to serving one year
- ✓ Be willing to share your thoughts and ideas
- ✓ Help promote Foster Care in the community

Email now: [info@adcogov.org](mailto:info@adcogov.org) Email for an application today!



## Adams County Mentor Program Update

- We have nine mentor/mentee's paired up
- Seven foster parents in pending status to serve as mentors
- Seeking more experienced foster parents to serve as mentors!
  - Mentors receive a gift card once paired with a mentee
- **Would you like to be paired up with a mentor? Reach out to K.P. Longton at [KLongton@adcogov.org](mailto:KLongton@adcogov.org) or Jennifer McCollum at [JMcCollum@adcogov.org](mailto:JMcCollum@adcogov.org)**





# Holiday Happenings



**Georgetown Bighorn Sheep Festival**

SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 2021  
 600 6TH STREET, GEORGETOWN  
 HOURS OF OPERATION: 10 A.M.- 4 P.M.  
 FREE ADMISSION  
 FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Home of one of the oldest and largest bighorn herds in the entire state, enjoy wildlife programs, children's activities, hikes, music, crafts, and more at this festival.



**CEREAL WITH SANTA AT BISON RIDGE RECREATION CENTER**

13905 E. 112TH AVE. COMMERCE CITY, 80022

- ENJOY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF HIS FAVORITE CEREALS.
- TAKE HOME A PROFESSIONAL PHOTO WITH SANTA AND A SPECIAL GIFT. PAJAMAS ARE ENCOURAGED
- KIDS AGES 2 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

PARENTS MUST REGISTER FOR THE EVENT BY CALLING: 303-286-6801.

SAT 12/11  
 TWO ENTRY TIMES AVAILABLE:  
 9-9:15 A.M. ENTRY (EVENT ENDS AT 10:15 A.M.)  
 10:30-10:45 A.M. ENTRY (EVENT ENDS AT 11:45 A.M.)

LIMITED TO 160 PEOPLE PER ENTRY TIME.  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE OCT. 1 THROUGH DEC. 8. [C3GOV.COM/REGISTER](http://C3GOV.COM/REGISTER)  
 \$4 PER PERSON (COMMERCE CITY RESIDENTS), \$6 PER PERSON (NONRESIDENTS)  
 THIS EVENT IS EXPECTED TO SELL OUT SO PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS EARLY.



**HOLIDAY LIGHTING CEREMONY**

EXPERIENCE  
 THE MAGICAL WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS  
 @ WESTMINSTER CITY HALL  
 DURING THE ANNUAL  
 HOLIDAY LIGHTING CEREMONY

SATURDAY, DEC. 4, 2021  
 5:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

- COMPLETE WITH LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, AND OF COURSE, A VISIT WITH SANTA!
- THE FULL-SIZE SLEIGH AND KID-SIZE TRAIN ARE PERFECT SETTINGS FOR FAMILY PHOTOS. DRESS WARMLY—THE EVENT IS MOSTLY OUTSIDE!



**SANTA'S CALLING!**

SANTA WILL BE RIDING THROUGH THORNTON DEC. 15-17.

AT THIS TIME, HE WILL TALK DIRECTLY TO BOYS AND GIRLS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 MONTHS AND 12 YEARS FINDING OUT WHO HAS BEEN NAUGHTY AND WHO HAS BEEN NICE.

TO REGISTER EACH CHILD, PARENTS NEED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN A PHONE FORM FOR SANTA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR SANTA AND HIS ELVES WILL BE MAKING CALLS DEC. 15-17 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6 AND 8 P.M.

REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DEC. 4.

**FREE!**

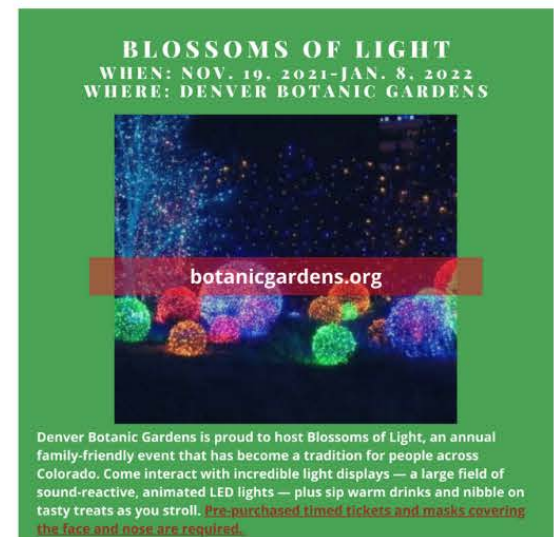


**COLORADO COUNTY**  
*Christmas Gift Show*

Friday - Sunday, Nov. 5-7  
 Denver Mart | 451 E 58th Ave., Denver

This Christmas-themed event where you can explore the more than 450 booths respectively, of arts, crafts, and gifts from local vendors.

Santa will be on-site so bring the kids!



**BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT**  
 WHEN: NOV. 19, 2021-JAN. 8, 2022  
 WHERE: DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

[botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

Denver Botanic Gardens is proud to host Blossoms of Light, an annual family-friendly event that has become a tradition for people across Colorado. Come interact with incredible light displays — a large field of sound-reactive, animated LED lights — plus sip warm drinks and nibble on tasty treats as you stroll. Pre-purchased timed tickets and masks covering the face and nose are required.