

# Caregiver Connection

A monthly resource for family caregivers and foster and adoptive families in Washington state

## Alliance Meeting Caregiver's Needs with Non-Classroom Trainings

The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence has expanded its use of technology to enable prospective and current foster parents to take more of their training online through eLearnings and webinars, or at their own convenience with individual coaching sessions.

"We want to provide a wide range of options to meet everybody's needs," said Stephanie Rodrigues, a trainer with the Alliance. The Alliance provides Caregiver Core Training (CCT) for people who are becoming foster parents, as well as trainings on a wide variety of other topics related to caregiving and the child welfare system.

The new options are a convenience for caregivers, said Jean Brownell, statewide caregiver curriculum developer for the Alliance. Caregivers can meet their training needs without having to travel.

Among the non-classroom trainings available for caregivers are: CCT online training, eLearnings, webinars and coaching sessions, all to be found in the Alliance catalog.

Caregiver Core Training is not just sitting and listening to information being presented, Rodrigues said. "It's much more engaging and interactive than people think it would be."

And training online eliminates a key barrier, she said. Parents don't have to find child care. That was a big upside for Amy Phelps, who lives near Pomeroy in rural Eastern Washington.

She and her husband Codie wanted to become foster parents, but found the logistics of getting to in-person training — about 40 miles away in Clarkston — daunting.

"We had been thinking about it for a couple of years, but didn't have any babysitting options," said Amy, the mother of three children, ages seven, five, and three. "This made it possible," she said. "It made a huge difference."

On the other side of the state, in rural Napavine south of Chehalis, Dana and Dean Bolen had a similar experience. They initially tried to get licensed through the PRIDE training, an earlier training model, which required in-person learning.

"We would have to block out two weekends, find a babysitter and miss church," she said of the drawbacks.



Dana and Dean Bolen of Napavine



Caregiver Connection is published by:

**Alliance**  
for Child Welfare Excellence

in partnership with the Washington State  
Department of Children, Youth, and Families



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
Children, Youth, and Families

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"I really, really enjoyed the training, doing it on line," said Dana, the mother of four.

She did much of her training when her kids were in bed at night. Dean, who is an early riser, was up at 4 a.m., doing the training. He also did it on his lunch break and when he was exercising on the treadmill.

As a result, the Bolens completed their training very quickly, Dana said.

Amy said she particularly liked the way the training kept her engaged.

"You would read, watch a video and then there would be questions," she said.

Real-life stories from those with various experiences in child welfare are shared throughout the training.

Dean said, "I loved every session of it. It was very easy to understand – very straightforward."

The online training – as with those done in-person – requires a field experience. Dana said they attended a dependency court hearing, which she found enlightening.

"It was really, really interesting, and I'm glad they had us do that," she said.

Other positive features of online training that were noted by the caregivers were the ability to back up and review something if they didn't understand it, as well as being able to print the subject matter for future reference.

Erika Thompson, a foster and adoptive mom from Puyallup who works as a foster parent liaison for Fostering Together, said she believes online training can be beneficial.

The training has a broad reach. Stephanie Rodrigues, the Alliance trainer, said she has had a call from Canada about the CCT training, and because it is online anyone can access it.

**The Alliance wants to know which subjects caregivers would like to have online that currently are offered only in-person. Please share your requests by emailing Jean Brownell, [jeanb9@uw.edu](mailto:jeanb9@uw.edu).**

## What Kind of Online Trainings are available?

**eLearnings:** eLearnings are accessible online at any time the caregiver chooses.

**Caregiver Core Training:** These eight interactive sessions are required for potential foster parents to be licensed but accessible to all current caregivers. "Interactive" meaning those taking the training have to perform various tasks regularly throughout the training to proceed through it. CCT requires a field experience and, after the online portion is completed, a coaching session with a trainer to discuss discipline, cultural competence and local resources.

**Other eLearnings include:** Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development, Infant Safety and Care, Introduction to the Indian Child Welfare Act, Mandatory Reporting Toolkit, Medication Administration, Multi-Ethnic Placement Act: What Caregivers Need to Know, Parent-Child Visitation, So You Have a New Placement, Now What?, and 18 trainings produced by the Institute for Learning and Brain Science (ILabs).

**Coaching sessions:** Individualized coaching sessions are available for caregivers to schedule at their

convenience. These are usually completed by phone, or video conference, though they can also be done in person. Coaching sessions include: Kinship 101, Caregiver Teaming for Visitation, and Caregiver's Report to the Court.

**Webinars:** Webinars are live, real-time teaching sessions during which participants can send questions to the presenter during the session. Current webinars include Kinship 101, and So You Have a New Placement, Now What?

Reprinted with permission of Rachel Scott  
Originally published by the College Success  
Foundation



Rachel Scott, budding marine biologist and former foster youth, appeared in the Caregiver Connection previously when she went to a White House conference on foster care and youth homelessness. Hers is an inspiring and true success story, one we highlight to close 2018 on a high note. Here is Rachel's story.

## Ending 2018 on a High Note — Former Foster Child Follows Her Heart to the Ocean

Nature, especially the water, was both a solace and an escape for Rachel when her alcoholic parents made life difficult. As a child growing up in a remote area of Eastern Washington, she spent a lot of time near the creek and pond on her family's farm.

"I adored being outside," Rachel says. "I was also that dorky kid who loved watching Shark Week on the Discovery Channel. By my junior year in high school, I knew I wanted to study the ocean."

She set her sights on attending the University of Washington, which has a well-regarded undergraduate oceanography program. But this proved to be difficult. After her mother passed away and her father decided to waive his rights to Rachel and her four siblings in 2009, Rachel entered foster care as a ward of the state. Although she wanted to go to college, nearly five years later she wasn't sure how she could do it.

Receiving the Washington State Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth through the College Success Foundation (CSF) helped make her dream possible. CSF's summer program for foster youth eased her transition to college, laid building blocks for her future and provided her with a safety net throughout the process.

"It was a life-changing experience," Rachel says. "I found support in a community of my peers, and it was the first time in my life I was able to relate with other young adults like me, where I felt normal and could be myself."

Throughout Rachel's college journey, CSF has been there whenever she's had questions or needed support. CSF has also helped her cultivate a network of peer counselors, mentors and friends who provided the support, guidance, strength and stability she needed to thrive.

When she was invited to meet Michelle Obama and other heads of state at the U.S. Department of Education for the Reach Higher "Beating the Odds" Summit, CSF helped sponsor trips to Washington, D.C., so she could participate in foster care and higher education panels and advocate for foster youth.

Rachel also was able to follow her aspirations of studying the ocean and environment.

During her third year in college, she had the opportunity to study marine biology and intertidal ecology at UW's marine research

facility in Friday Harbor on Washington's San Juan Island.

In summer 2018, she sailed on three different research vessels off the Oregon coast and in Puget Sound. She also began working as a teaching assistant for two professors and in a UW School of Oceanography lab.

Rachel is excited to be a presenter at two upcoming marine technology conferences and is on track to graduate in spring 2019 with a bachelor's degree in oceanography and a minor in marine biology. After graduation, she would like to continue working for the UW School of Oceanography as she applies for graduate school. She credits the steadfast support she received from CSF with allowing her to focus on her studies and build a bright future.

"Attending the University of Washington, and specifically the Department of Oceanography, has allowed me to excel in ways I never dreamed," Rachel says. "Almost a decade since I entered foster care, I can now firmly say that I have a long, bright future ahead."



# Understanding Adoption Support

When the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the court determine that a child cannot return to their biological home and adoption is the best plan for the child, foster parents and kinship caregivers are asked to consider if they want to be the adoptive parents for the child.

If you are approved as the identified adoptive family for a child or sibling group, DCYF staff will work with you on completing an adoption support application. Your adoption support application begins the process of negotiating an agreement to remove potential barriers to adoption.

Here are some facts about the Adoption Support Program provided by Karolyn Smith and Melanie Meyer, Adoption Support Program supervisors for DCYF:

## What is Washington's Adoption Support program?

Adoption Support is a state and federal program that encourages the adoption of special needs children.

## What are the eligibility criteria for adoption support?

A child must meet the three areas listed below:

1. Meet one or more of the following conditions:
  - *The child is of a minority ethnic background.*
  - *The child is six years or older at time of application.*
  - *The child is a member of a sibling group.*
  - *The child has a diagnosed physical, mental, developmental, cognitive or emotional disability.*
  - *The child is at risk of a physical, mental, developmental, cognitive or emotional disability due to prenatal drug exposure, severe abuse or genetic history; and*
2. The state has determined that the child cannot or should not be returned to the home of the biological parent; and
3. The department or child-placing agency that placed the child for adoption documented a reasonable but unsuccessful effort to place the child without adoption support, or it is against the child's best interest to search for an adoptive placement that can adopt without adoption support.

## How will the Adoption Support Program support my family?

The program offers five supports:

1. Medicaid coverage, provided through Washington Apple Health.
2. Reimbursement up to \$1,500 per child, available for non-recurring adoption-related expenses such as pre-adoption legal costs.
3. Opportunities for parents to participate in training through the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence or Apple Health Coordinated Care.
4. Parent access to counseling for the child, in-home evidence-based practices or parental counseling, if desired by the parents.
5. If requested by the parents, a monthly cash payment to assist them in removing barriers that would prevent them from adopting.

## Did you know?

Every adoption support contract is unique! The adoption support consultants work with each family to gain an understanding of the family's unique needs. While all families are eligible for the five supports previously described, the monthly cash payment does not have a guaranteed amount. It is determined through negotiation between the parents and the program.

## What if I'm adopting an older child? Are additional supports available for families adopting older youth?

Youth over age 13 who are adopted are eligible to complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the federal form necessary to receive student aid, as an independent person. This means the adoptive family's income is not required to complete the FAFSA, and is not considered when awarding financial aid. Those adopted at age 14 maintain their eligibility to apply for the College Bound Scholarship Program. Those adopted after age 16 are eligible for extended adoption support.

To be eligible for extended adoption support, the youth must meet one of the following criteria:

- Attending a high school, college or vocational school program.
- Participating in a program designed to assist independence.
- Working 80 hours per month, or
- Has a medical condition that prevents participation in those areas.

# Kinship Korner



## Support is Available for Relative Caregivers

Support is available for relatives who are caring for children in state custody.

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF, formerly Children's Administration) is on a mission to license more kinship caregivers. It begins with helping our kinship caregivers understand the licensing process and its benefits.

Kinship caregivers caring for children with child welfare cases are highly encouraged to become licensed foster parents.

The monthly foster care reimbursement is the largest source of ongoing financial support available for kinship caregivers. This reimbursement is a minimum of \$573 per month per child. This is far larger than the Child-Only TANF grant available to unlicensed caregivers. The classes required for licensing, Caregiver Core Training, are offered online and in-person. They use the voices of foster youth and experienced caregivers to provide important information about the system. Training is also a way to connect with others who are caring for a child in state care. These classes clarify the role of caregivers, caseworkers, the court and others in the complicated child welfare system. They also explain how the system works and connect caregivers to resources that can assist them throughout the life of a case.

Both licensed and unlicensed caregivers have monthly visits from caseworkers and must follow case and visitation plans. Cases with court involvement can last for months and longer, so remaining unlicensed does not shorten or lessen state involvement. Becoming licensed can actually provide additional financial resources.

Help is available with the process of becoming licensed! Call 1-888-543-7414 to get started. You will receive a response within 48 hours. You can also contact one of our recruitment and retention partners who serve kinship and foster parents and can assist with the licensing process.

Fostering Washington, which serves Eastern Washington, and Fostering Together, which serves Western Washington, offer a variety of supports to foster parents and kinship caregivers through contracts with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

Those same services are offered to relatives who are caring for children in state custody.

Services include connecting caregivers through social media and support groups, help troubleshooting issues related to the children in their care, and assisting caregivers while they navigate their way through often-complex systems.

### Here are those contacts:

#### Eastern Washington EWU's Fostering Washington:

**Amber Sherman**  
Recruitment Coordinator  
509-359-0874  
asherman4@ewu.edu

**Hayley Stoebner**  
Recruitment Coordinator  
509-322-1191  
hstoebner@ewu.edu

#### Western Washington Olive Crest's Fostering Together:

**Shala Crow**  
Program Director  
Regions 3 and 4 Program Supervisor  
360-220-3785  
shala-crow@olivecrest.org

**Leeann Marshal**  
Regions 5 and 6 Supervisor  
360-909-0421  
leeann-marshel@olivecrest.org

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Eligibility for youth in extended adoption support may continue receiving support through age 20. In addition, youth adopted at or after age 16, may qualify for the Educational Training Voucher.

These supports are cumulative. If you were adopted at 16, you get to claim yourself as independent at 13, maintain eligibility for a College Bound scholarship at 14, and the Educational Training Voucher and extended adoption support under the Adoption Support Program at 16.

### What can I do to feel prepared for my adoption support negotiation?

Even before your adoption caseworker gives you the adoption support application and worksheet, you can begin thinking about and identifying your child's special needs, your resources and your typical monthly expenses. When you're ready to start filling out the adoption support worksheet, you will need to provide information on income, debt, housing, transportation, space, family size and the needs of family members.

### Did you know?

You will need to provide a copy of your most recent federal Internal Revenue Service 1040 form. Your adoption caseworker will provide your home study and information about your child's special needs to the adoption support consultant.

### Myth Buster!!

Sometimes adoption support consultants hear a common myth from caregivers. Some adoptive families believe that once an adoption support agreement is signed, it cannot be changed or modified. This is inaccurate. Families on the program may request a review at any time.

To contact your consultant, go to:  
[dcyf.wa.gov/services/adoption-support-program/program-contacts](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/adoption-support-program/program-contacts)

# Group Set to Advocate before the Legislature



When the 2019 session of the Washington Legislature begins in January, organizations and individuals involved with the child welfare system will be presenting ideas to lawmakers.

Among the most active will be the youth of the Mockingbird Society, who promote ideas they believe would be beneficial to young people in foster care and the child welfare system.

Among the items they will be promoting is a bill that would keep fewer young people from entering juvenile detention for what are called “status offenses” – those offenses related to their age, such as running away from care or truancy at school.

In the view of Mockingbird, other practices, such as the truancy courts that have been started in some areas of the state, are a better alternative than a juvenile detention facility.

Being placed in such a facility “doesn’t ease trauma” young people are facing. “It exacerbates it,” said Liz Trautman, Mockingbird’s director of public policy and advocacy. She said the organization would like tools that “build up interventions at the front end.”

Mockingbird proposed a bill to achieve these ends in 2018, and it made it through much of the legislative process before time ran out in the session, she said.

Mockingbird also wants to ensure young people are heard on the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families Oversight Board.

“We don’t want to be a missing voice in discussions and activities that affect young people,” she said.

Liz added that Mockingbird will ask for \$5.2 million for programs that help youth from the age of 14, who begin their transition from care. While transition planning is supposed to begin at that age, money is needed to carry out and strengthen those programs.

Mockingbird also would like more money to expand the “Mockingbird Hub Home Model,” which supports foster parents. The model provides a center “hub home” that connects a constellation of other nearby homes in a network of support that provides respite and helps coordinate resources and information.

The organization also will seek “educational equity” between the foster care and homeless youth populations, trying to align programs for the two groups and eliminating the “gaps and silos” that can keep programs for those youth from being delivered most effectively, Liz said.

In working with the new department, the organization also plans to focus attention on LGBTQ youth and on consistent support for youth in the Independent Living Skills Program, Liz said.

As they have for several years, Mockingbird youth will have an advocacy day at the Capitol. The event this year will be Feb. 8.







Coordinated Care will be closed Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. It also will be closed Monday, Dec. 31, in observance of New Year's Eve. The 24/7 Nurse Advice Line is available for health-related questions and concerns for Apple Health Core Connections members: 1-844-354-9876 (TTY/TDD: 711).

## Coordinated Care knows the flu is no fun

According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children should get a flu shot every year for the best protection against the flu. Influenza (the flu) is more dangerous than the common cold for children. Each year, millions of kids get sick with seasonal Influenza and thousands are hospitalized.

It is not too late to get the flu shot for this flu season. Coordinated Care covers the flu shot at no cost. You can always get a flu shot from your primary care doctor. Children, seven and older, can get the flu shot at a participating pharmacy.

Need help finding a place to get your kids' flu shots? Call Apple Health Core Connections 1-844-354-9876 (TDD/TTY: 711).

If a cold or flu does strike, check out these ideas for soothing cold and flu symptoms.

Not sure which symptoms could mean it's the flu? Here's a list of things to look for:

- Fever
- Headache
- Feeling tired
- Dry cough and/or sore throat
- Runny nose
- Muscle aches

Vomiting and diarrhea also can occur. They are more common in kids than adults with the flu. For more information and next steps, visit the [Coordinated Care Krames Health Library](#). As always, you can call our 24/7 Nurse Advice Line for health-related questions and concerns any time: 1-844-354-9876 (TTY/TDD: 711).

## Heartfelt and homemade holiday gift ideas

Buying gifts can add up quickly, but kids may want to get in on gift-giving. Save money by making gifts from items in your own home. Encourage kids to make gifts for siblings or parents. Check out these crafts for ways to make the perfect gift this year.

- [Popsicle stick frames](#)
- [Candy sleighs](#)
- [Sugar scrubs](#)
- [Tie-dye bookmarks](#)
- [Teacup candles](#)
- [Homemade refrigerator magnets](#)
- [Send-a-hug](#)

## Winter fun that's healthy, too!

Don't let the cold keep you and the kids from being active. There are many ways to stay fit during the winter months. Here are some ideas to keep your family on the move:

**Go geocaching:** This is a free and fun activity for all. Watch a [video here](#).

**Take the stairs:** Add exercise without thinking about it by taking the stairs instead of the escalator or elevator.

**Exercise while gaming:** Too cold to go outside and play? Try Nintendo Wii's tennis game and compete with the kids. Other video games that boost the heart rate include Dance Dance Revolution, Wipeout, Zumba and Wii Sports.

**Get creative indoors:** Try a game of tag or an active game of Simon Says. Keep your kids moving indoors, but remember to move furniture out of the way.

**Have a snowball fight:** Is there snow in your area? Get out and enjoy it. Make a snowman or a fort. Have a snowball fight!

## Tips for Healthy Holiday Eating

- Feed your children and yourself a light meal or snack before going to a holiday party. It's easy to overeat when you're hungry.
- Set a good example for kids by eating fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- Teach your children to eat smaller portions of food, especially at a buffet, where they may want to try everything.
- Sodas and other sweet drinks contain a lot of calories and many contain caffeine. For a healthier "soda," mix 100 percent fruit juice with club soda or seltzer.
- The holiday season can keep you extra busy. Avoid fast food. It may be handy, but is often high in fat and low in nutrition.

# Jingle Bell Rockin' The Holidays

by Deanna Partlow

Put on some holiday music and gather the kids for a gift-making session using rocks. You can use one of these ideas or find many more suggestions on the internet. What is great about this craft is that kids of all ages can get involved: small children can create a work of art and teens can take a more sophisticated approach.



Here is what you will need beforehand, depending on which version of rock painting you choose:

- Smooth river rocks or slate chunks that are about 3 inches or more wide. Rocks this size can be found at hardware stores and landscaping businesses. I bought three nice-sized rocks for \$1.89. Kids could scavenge outside for them, too.
- Acrylic paints. White or black to paint an undercoat, plus any colors you'd like to use.
- Brushes or sponges.
- A jar or plastic cup for washing brushes, plus paper towels to dry them.
- Wire, about 22-gauge, and pliers or heavy kitchen shears to cut it.
- Beads that will fit on the wire.
- A nice photo of your child or children.

## Optional:

- A sealer, such as Mod Podge or Krylon Satin Finish.
- Nail polish.
- Sequins, gems and small decorative items.
- Toothpicks, painters tape.
- Permanent fine-tip markers.

## Rock Painting 101

Here is the most common method for rock painting.

The day before, thoroughly scrub the rocks. (This is a fun job for kids!) Dry the rocks well on both sides. Give each rock a base coat of paint, usually white or black. Let them dry again. (Speed the process by using a blow dryer.)

Cover your work area with a vinyl cloth or newspapers and make sure your kids are in paint clothes. Then, have fun painting!

Kids can paint their rock with holiday designs or anything else they like. I found that brushes with pointed tips worked the best for small designs. When the paint is dry, kids also could write a word or two on it with a permanent marker. Painting words is hard to do for most kids.

**Optional:** After the paint is thoroughly dry, cover the rock with a sealer such as Mod Podge and let it dry again. This protects it from scratches and gives it a sheen. If you are using a spray sealer, the adult should do this step.



Photo by Katie Burkhart on Unsplash



## Rock photo holders

I got this idea from [BuggyandBuddy.com](http://BuggyandBuddy.com), which has many interesting craft projects.

After your rock is finished, wrap a length of wire around it one time, then twist the loop tight against the rock where the ends cross. Make it extra tight so it will not slip off by twisting it with pliers. Make the wire long enough so that one side extends about 8-9 inches above the rock. The tail of the short end can be wrapped around the tall end at the base.

String beads on the wire, leaving about 3-4 inches unstrung.

To form the picture holder, loop the bare wire at the top around a fat marker or round kitchen utensil handle a couple times. Straighten the wire so it is perpendicular to the rock.

If your child wants to glue on other embellishments, now is the time to do it.

Finally, stick a favorite photo on the holder. My holder was not tight enough to hold the photo, so I taped it to the back wire.



## Here are a couple rock painting variations you can try for fun:

### Marbleized rocks

Prepare the rocks as described above.

Fill a disposable plastic container with *room temperature* water, then pour two or three colors of nail polish into the water. If the temperature is right, the polish will float on top.

Find a good place to grip the rock with fingers or tongs so it can be dipped into the mixture. Dip the rock in, then swirl it gently and slowly pull it out. If you want, use a toothpick to play with the pattern.

Dry it on a wire rack or resting on the egg half of an egg carton so it will not attach itself to the table covering.

The rock can either be finished as a photo holder like the one above or used as-is as a paper-weight.

### Doodle rocks

Prepare the rocks as described above, then use permanent fine-tip markers to doodle designs on them. For a natural look, doodling also can be done on clean rocks without the base coat.

Kids may want to paint one end and doodle on the other. Finish as a photo holder or paper weight.

Techniques above can be combined. Don't forget to have your child write their name and the date on the back of this extra-special holiday gift.

# Bring Your Issues to Consultation Team Members

Since 2007, statewide meetings have brought together caregivers and administrators and managers of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Within DCYF and the caregiving community, these meetings are frequently referred to as “1624 meetings,” (this number reflects the legislative bill number that created the committee). The meetings include foster parent representatives who are elected for a

two-year term by other caregivers in their region, elected representatives from the Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS), and DCYF staff who are appointed by agency leadership. If you, as a caregiver, have questions or concerns you would like to have discussed at the meeting, contact a team member from the list included in this issue.

The committee discusses issues of statewide concern to foster parents.

The regional members also help set dates for regional consultation meetings so local issues can be discussed.

You can also contact Caregiver Recruitment, Retention, and Support Program Manager Holly Luna at [Holly.Luna@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:Holly.Luna@dcyf.wa.gov) or 360-902-8035.

## DCYF Foster Parent Consultation Team (1624)

### Foster Parent Regional Representatives 2018

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Victoria O'Banion, Reg. 1	<a href="mailto:vnhobanion@gmail.com">vnhobanion@gmail.com</a>	308-991-5663
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## Caregiver Training from the Alliance

Explore our wide variety of caregiver training options designed to increase understanding and strengthen skills. These upcoming in-person classroom sessions provide in-depth information on relevant topics for the caregiver community at convenient locations across the state.

### DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 1: EASTERN WASHINGTON, NORTH OF KITTITAS AND BENTON/FRANKLIN COUNTIES AND EAST OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

- Compassionate Parenting
- ILABS Module 4: The Power of Learning Through Imitation
- ILABS Module 6: Language Development: Learning Sounds of Language
- ILABS Module 16: Foundations for Literacy
- ILABS Module 17: Development of Literacy
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)
- Talking with Children About Race
- Youth Missing from Care

### DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 2: SOUTH/CENTRAL EASTERN WASHINGTON

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- ILABS Module 7: Development of Attachment
- ILABS Module 10: Language Development From Listening to Speaking
- ILABS Module 13: Race Today: What Kids Know As They Grow
- ILABS Module 14: "Racing" Toward Equality: Why Talking To Your Kids About Race Is Good For Everyone
- Kinship 101
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)
- Talking With Children About Race

### DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 3: I-5 CORRIDOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY TO WHATCOM COUNTY + ISLAND

- African American Hair and Skin Care
- ILABS Module 7: Development of Attachment
- ILABS Module 12: Temperament in Early Childhood
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What?
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)



## Caregiver Training from the Alliance continued

### DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 4: KING COUNTY

- Behavior Management Tools for Foster Parents and Caregivers
- Introduction to Adoption from Foster Care
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- Parenting the Positive Discipline Way
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What?
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)
- Verbal De-escalation

### DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 5: PIERCE AND KITSAP COUNTIES

- Kinship 101
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- Knowledge and Skills to Help Children Heal
- Minimizing the Risks of Allegations
- Paper Trail: Documentation Training for Caregivers
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)

### DECEMBER TRAININGS IN REGION 6: I-5 CORRIDOR SOUTH OF PIERCE COUNTY TO CLARK COUNTY + OLYMPIA PENINSULA

- As They Grow: The Drug Impacted Child
- Caregiving for Children with Physically Aggressive Behavior Concerns
- Caregiving for Children with Sexual Behavior Concerns
- Eating Disorders and Beyond
- Kinship 101 (Webinar)
- So You Have a New Placement...Now What? (Webinar)

## Caregiver Education and Training Administrator

Michael Tyers . . . . . 425-268-9375 [tyersm@uw.edu/](mailto:tyersm@uw.edu)

## Your Child Welfare Training Team for Regions 1 and 2

### Eastern Washington

Kebbie Green . . . . . 509-362-1336 [kgreen10@uw.edu](mailto:kgreen10@uw.edu)

Patty Orona. . . . . 509-834-8535 [po5@uw.edu](mailto:po5@uw.edu)

Ryan Krueger . . . . . 509-660-0350 [krry300@uw.edu](mailto:krry300@uw.edu)

Sherry Colomb . . . . . 509-322-2552 [scolomb1@uw.edu](mailto:scolomb1@uw.edu)

## Your Child Welfare Training Team Regions 3 and 4

### King County and North to Whatcom County and Island County

Joan Sager . . . . . 360-594-6744 [sagerj2@uw.edu](mailto:sagerj2@uw.edu)

El-Freda Stephenson . . . . 206-923-4922 [elfreda@uw.edu](mailto:elfreda@uw.edu)

Gracia Hahn . . . . . 253-983-6362 [hahng@uw.edu](mailto:hahng@uw.edu)

## Your Child Welfare Training Team for Regions 5 and 6

### Pierce County & South to Clark County plus the Olympic Peninsula & Coast

Penny Michel . . . . . 360-725-6788 [mpen300@uw.edu](mailto:mpen300@uw.edu)

Stephanie Rodrigues . . . . 206-321-1721 [steph75@uw.edu](mailto:steph75@uw.edu)

Robert Judd. . . . . 360-344-3003 [juddre@uw.edu](mailto:juddre@uw.edu)

## Your Registration Help Desk

Registration Help . . . . . 866-577-1915 [help@acwe.on.spiceworks.com](mailto:help@acwe.on.spiceworks.com)

**Join us on Social Media for inspiration, tips, trainings,  
the latest events and to be part of a caregiver community**



# Meet Our Recruitment Partners Who Support You



**Fostering Together supports the west side of the state (Regions 3, 4, 5, and 6) through foster care Liaisons.**

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) works in partnership with two separate agencies to provide foster parent recruitment and retention / support services to prospective foster parents, current foster parents and relative caregivers in all areas of Washington. Our goals are to:

- Increase the numbers of safe, quality foster families to meet the diverse needs of children and youth placed in out-of-home care in Washington State, and
- Offer support to foster parents and relative caregivers

Prospective foster parents are welcome to license through either CA's, Children, Youth and Families – Licensing Division (DCYF-LD), or any private child placing agency licensed in Washington. Our recruitment partners serve all families, regardless of where they choose to become licensed. Prospective foster parents are welcome to license through either CA's, DCYF-LD, or any private child placing agency licensed in Washington. Our recruitment partners serve all families, regardless of where they choose to become licensed.

The Liaisons or Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs) provide information, help and guidance for you from your first inquiry, through training, and throughout the licensing process to become foster parents. Liaisons and RPMs both answer questions and share helpful information during your foster care journey. They offer:

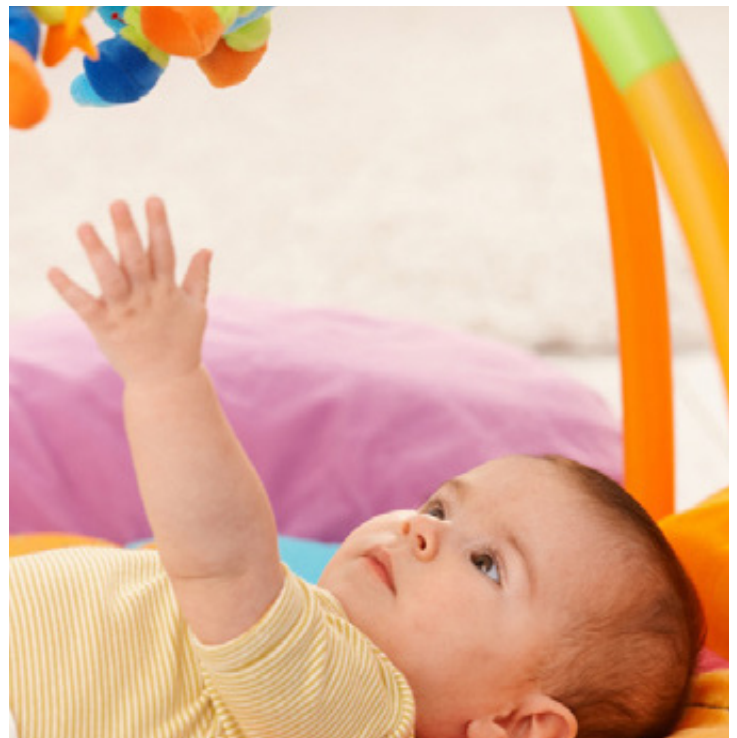
- Support at your first placement,
- Support groups , (some with training hours available and some provide a meal and / or child care)
- Mentoring,
- Training, and
- On-line Facebook groups



**Fostering Washington supports (Region 1 and 2) the east side of the state through Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs),**

All supports are designed with our caregivers in mind.

We want to help you connect with other caregivers, obtain additional training, and find answers to questions. Both Fostering Together and Fostering WA offer information and referral services to foster parents and relative caregivers. The regional liaisons or peer mentors also help resolve issues foster parents may experience in their local area. Contact the liaison or RPM listed for your area with any questions you might have.





# Fostering Washington



Position/ Area Covered	Name	E-mail	Phone
Director All Counties	Kim Fordham	kfordham@ewu.edu	(208)-659-7401
Recruitment Coordinator Asotin, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman Counties	Amber Sherman	asherman4@ewu.edu	(509) 359-0874
Recruitment Coordinator Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Yakima, Walla Walla, Counties	Tyann Whitworth	twhitworth@ewu.edu	(509) 731-2060
Recruitment Coordinator Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan Counties	Hayley Stoebner	hstoebner@ewu.edu	(509) 322-1191
FIRST Program Mngr. All Counties	Dru Powers	Dpowers8@ewu.edu	(509) 928-6697

Fostering Washington's website [www.fosteringwa.org](http://www.fosteringwa.org) can help you locate your local foster parent

Resource Peer Mentor (RPM) from the county map on their website.

Click on: → *Find your mentor*

**Fostering Together:**  
**1-866-958-KIDS (5437)**



Name	Region	E-mail	Phone
Shala Crow	3 and 4	<a href="mailto:shala-crow@olivecrest.org">shala-crow@olivecrest.org</a>	(360) 220-3785
Leeann Marshal	5 and 6	<a href="mailto:leeann-marshel@olivecrest.org">leeann-marshel@olivecrest.org</a>	(360) 909-0721

Fostering Together's website [fosteringtogether.org](http://fosteringtogether.org) can help you locate your local foster parent liaison.

Click on: → *About Us* → *Find Your Liaison*