



Foster Parent Program



UPDATE BULLETIN

AUGUST 2005

New recognition program acknowledges our foster parents

In the last newsletter, Gloria Atkinson advised everyone about the new Foster Parent Recognition Program that Calgary and Area will be starting this October. We are extremely excited to be able to celebrate your achievements in this new way. Letters to those eligible will be sent out in August, along with a copy of the catalogue of the gifts available.

We will need you to make your decision fairly quickly so that we have all the gifts available for presentation at the Annual Awards Banquet on October 15, 2005.

Foster Care Recognition Program Criteria

The following is a list of the Criteria that Calgary and Area used to determine who would be eligible for the recognition gifts this year:

1. The Recognition Program's first event will be in 2005. The cut off date for this year's recipients will be December 31, 2004. The program will not be retroactive.
2. Recipients must be currently fostering for the Authority in the Calgary and Area region
3. Time fostering in other regions in Alberta will be taken into account.
4. Time fostering for Agency or out of province will not be taken into account.
5. If the foster family has been *on hold* or is currently *on hold*, this time will be taken into account.

Level 1 Core Training begins September 6, 2005

All the Level 1 Foster Parents will be receiving a letter from myself in August, listing what training Modules you will need to register for to complete your Level 1 Training. Included with the letter will be a copy of the Equivalency Form which shows the training you have taken in the past and how that determined what modules you still require. Your Foster Care Workers will be receiving a copy as well, so if you have any concerns, you can contact either them or myself.

Also include in the letter will be a copy of the Fall 2005 Schedule. This schedule will also be posted on the Website as well. As explained in the letter, foster parents will be limited regarding the number of modules you can register for at one time, so there is room for everyone to get involved in the training this fall.

The modules have all been scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday evenings this session with the exception of modules A 4 Safeguarding Against Allegation and A 5 Addressing Allegations which will be offered on a Saturday so that both modules can be completed in the same day. There are not enough Saturdays or trainers available to offer more modules on Saturday for this session. We will try to address this situation in the Winter 2006 session when all the modules will be repeated. Just a reminder that all Level 1 foster parents will be allowed

four (4) years to complete the Level 1 training, the start date for that four year period will be September 1, 2005.

Please remember that having completed your Level 1 training does not mean you will automatically be moved to Level 2. There are a number of other criteria that need to be taken into consideration such as: years of experience, demonstrated skill and knowledge, positive annual assessments, etc. You will need to place a request with your Foster Care Worker.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office and we will SEE YOU IN TRAINING.

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