



Guardians

Raising

And

Nurturing

Dependents

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GRAND Kinship Navigator Program and Support Group

What is a Kinship Navigator?

Kinship Navigator Services provide linkage and support for kinship families and the children they care for. Services may include: Legal Assistance, Financial Assistance, Medical Coverage, Educational Services, Day Care Assistance, Referrals to Community Agencies, Advocacy, and Support Kinship caregivers have made a courageous and life changing decision that exemplifies their commitment and devotion to the children in their care. With that in mind, GRAND Kinship Navigator Services

strives to maintain children with their caregivers, to promote stability and sense of belonging, maintain extended family relationships and continue to benefit from inclusion in family traditions and cultural beliefs.

Who is a Kinship Family?

Relatives and Non-Relatives providing substitute care who have a longstanding relationship with a child.

G.R.A.N.D. Support Group:

G.R.A.N.D. Kinship Support Group was established by community kinship families seeking to support and empower others.

When we meet:

The G.R.A.N.D. group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

We meet at Family & Community Services, Inc. at 705 Oakwood St. Suite 122 Ravenna, OH.

All family members welcome.

Daycare provided.

Dealing with Children Who Bite

According to Dr. Putt from Akron Children's Hospital, children may resort to biting when they are frustrated, annoyed or don't get their way. Some children bite just to see what will happen. They quickly learn that this is a powerful communication tool. They usually receive a strong and immediate reaction, reinforcing the behavior. For this reason, biting should be dealt with immediately and firmly to avoid similar actions in the future.

Here are ways to handle a child who has been biting others:

Don't bite back – this teaches children that aggression is used to solve problems

Don't give the incident undue attention – don't show off the bite mark or talk about it in front of the child

Supervise your child with playing with others – especially in the early stages so you can respond quickly to the behavior

Give your child positive attention – when they play nice with others

Give a "stop" instruction – when you catch your child ready to bite another child

Put your child in time-out or quiet time – if your child does bite, place them in time-out but allow them to return to play after two minutes of appropriate behavior.

Continue with this pattern until the child learns appropriate play

Offer a reward – if a child can get through a play session without biting, give them a treat, read them a story or offer them praise for their behavior.

Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

Ohio's Biennial Budget (HB 66) established the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPI). The new program was implemented January 1, 2006.

This program will provide **financial support** for minor children in the legal custody or guardianship of grandparents, relatives, or other "kinship caregivers" (defined in Ohio as any relative or non-relative adult who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family).

Eligible kin caregivers must have received judicial custody or guardianship on or after July 1, 2005.

For more details on KPI – Contact the Kinship Navigator at 330-677-4124 ext. 28.



Recipe Corner

This recipe comes from one of our support group members! She says it's quick, easy and delicious!

Turkey (or chicken) Roll-Ups

Ingredients:

- 6-8 slices of deli turkey, sliced an 1/8" thick (chicken can be substituted for turkey)
- 1 box of Stove Top turkey stuffing, chicken stuffing or cornbread stuffing
- 1 jar of turkey gravy

Directions:

1. Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Prepare the stuffing mix according to the directions on the box. Let the stuffing cool until you are able to work with the stuffing using your hands.
3. Lightly grease a 9 X 13" baking dish.
4. Spread a coating of the gravy on the bottom of the dish.
5. On a cutting board, take one slice of the turkey, place the desired stuffing amount toward one end of the slice and then roll the turkey slice up. Place the roll-up in the baking dish with the "seam" end down. Repeat for all slices.
6. If any stuffing is left over, place it in the dish around the roll-ups. The gravy can be placed in the dish as well.
7. Bake for 30-45 minutes or until the roll-ups are piping hot.

These items are great for a pot-luck style meal! Simply cut each of the rolls in half after they have cooked and you have doubled your contribution!

GRAND Meeting Reminder

Please remember that our future monthly Guardians Raising and Nurturing Dependents (GRAND) Support Group meetings will be held on **Monday, September 19, 2011 and Monday, October 17, 2011**. These meetings will be held at a new time from **6:00 pm – 7:30 pm** at the Place of Peace, located at 705 Oakwood St., Suite 122, in Ravenna. All are welcome to attend the meeting. Child care and a light snack are provided. No speaker has been scheduled for the meetings at this time. For more information, please contact the Kinship Navigator at 330-677-4124 ext. 28.

LAG Meeting Reminder

The quarterly Local Advisory Group meeting held on Monday October 17, 2011 from 3:30 – 4:30 at 143 Gougler Ave. in Kent.

"Blood's thicker than water, and when one's in trouble, best to seeks out a relative's open arms" – Author Unknown

Why Children Should Have Chores

You may ask yourself, is it worth the effort to have the children do their chores or should I just give in and do it myself?

Dr. Georgette Constantinou believes that it is important to have the children complete chores in order for them to become self-sufficient adults. Chores teach children to be accountable, teamwork and to gain the understanding that the family does not exist for their benefit only.

Simple chores can be given to children when they are young, such as putting dirty clothes in the hamper or toys back in the toy box. Chores provide an opportunity for children to learn, problem solve and build self-esteem.

As the child grows, responsibilities should be added to match their current abilities. Try not to do things for children that they can do themselves. When assigning a new task, show children how it should be done and remember to keep your expectations realistic.

As your child reaches the age to drive, they may have full schedules involving sports, school activities and more but these children should still be required to contribute to the family by completing chores. Remember to be realistic as to how much time they have available to work on those chores.

To get your children motivated, try to match each task with your child's age and abilities. Have reasonable expectations and provide guidance, especially for younger children. When possible, give your child choices about which chore they prefer.

Set clear expectations about what needs to be done and be clear about the consequences should the task not be completed. Explain the task so that there is no confusion and if it is the first time completing the task, do it with your child so that they are able to learn.

Consequences should parallel the task. For example, if the toys are not put away, they will be put in the closet for a specific amount of time. Just as if the family room is not vacuumed, then there will be no TV for the evening. For younger children a chart is a good tool to use. As the child completes a task, the child receives a star on the chart.

As children grow older they may be less impressed with receiving a star and more interested in receiving something with a little more spending power. Discussions about chores seem to always lead to questions about receiving an allowance.

If an allowance is appropriate and how much that allowance should be is a family decision. Many families do not give children money with no strings attached. This does not mean that children should be given allowances for completing chores that everyone in the family must do. Consider giving the child an allowance for extra tasks, like shoveling snow or mowing the grass. You may also want to give an allowance each week as specific tasks are completed or if the child has been well behaved and contributed to the family. Giving children an allowance teaches them the responsibility of money management and budgeting. This teaches children to really consider if something is really worth the amount it costs.

Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) Changes

With the recent state budget crisis, many programs provided to families in Ohio are being subjected to changes and cuts. The KPI program is no different. Beginning on July 1, 2011, the KPI payments that are awarded to families have changed. The first initial payment will now be \$450.00 for each kinship child and each subsequent payment will be \$250.00 per kinship child in the home. Please take notice of this information as it may affect your family in the future.

**Family & Community Services, Inc.
GRAND Kinship Navigator Program**

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A program of:



In conjunction with:



Portage County Jobs &
Family Services



**Find out more about
Kinship**

www.kinshipohio.org

About Our Organization and the Grant

About Family & Community Services, Inc.-

For more than 60 years, people in Northeast Ohio have turned to **Family & Community Services, Inc.** As one of the largest, non-profit social service agencies in Northeast Ohio, we can respond quickly and compassionately to Individuals and families who encounter adversity or have difficulty coping with the basics of living can contact us for help. We have the ability and program diversity to help meet emergency situations, as well as work directly with clients to develop long-term independence and self-reliance.

Our belief in individual dignity and our strong sense of community determine our focus direct our policies and drive our efforts. Our programs and community centers could not operate efficiently operate without our dedicated 3,000+ volunteers. In fact, our volunteers help us to provide the wide array of community-based programs and services we offer throughout Northeast Ohio. Our volunteers cook and serve meals, tutor school children, distribute clothing, assist senior citizens and work as advocates for the homeless and abused.

About the Grant-

As part of implementing the Fostering Connections to Success Act, Public Children Services Association of Ohio, in collaboration with seven Ohio counties and the Human Services Research Institute received a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services to demonstrate the effectiveness of Kinship Navigator Programs in high need areas. Each of the seven county agencies involved including Portage Children Services , will provide enhanced Kinship Navigator services to a broad population of kinship caregivers, regardless of their involvement with the child welfare system.

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