

# Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

## Basic Needs

### ***iFoster Online Resource Portal***

Foster youth, foster families, relative caregivers, and professionals working with any of those groups can access local resources and retail discounts. Resources also include free online tutoring, free cell phones, discounted laptop computers, and discounted orthodontics. Upon registration, participants will be asked to provide the name of someone who can verify their status as a foster youth, parent, or relative caregivers. Visit [ifoster.org](http://ifoster.org) to learn more and to register.

### ***James Store House***

James Store House secures donations for foster and birth parents and youth in care. Items include furniture, clothing, and other material necessities. Items are generally distributed to families to support placement stability, placement with a relative, or ILP/ TAY youth. **Contact Elisa Carreno at 289-1926 to request a referral.**

### ***Heart-to-Heart***

Heart-to-Heart donates gently used items to foster parents, relative caregivers and children and is located in Ventura. **Contact Elisa Carreno at 289-1926 to request a referral.**

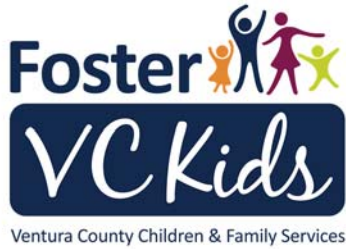
### ***Cornerstone Clothing Closet***

Cornerstone offers gently used items to foster parents, relative caregivers and children and is located in Simi Valley. **Families may contact Iris Braswell to schedule an appointment [john316simi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:john316simi@sbcglobal.net).**

### ***Rachael's Closet***

Rachael's Closet is a resource closet run by VCFPA and provides new and used clothing, shoes, backpacks, bedding, infant and toddler supplies, and toys to foster families in Ventura County through a central physical location in the City of Ventura. All of these items are provided free of charge. Caregivers contact **[lisa@vcfpa.com](mailto:lisa@vcfpa.com) or 805-285-3790 to schedule an appointment.**





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## Extracurricular Activities

### *Children's Services Auxiliary*

The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, and scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. **Families or social workers should contact Elisa Carreno at 289-1926 BEFORE enrolling in an activity to ensure that it can be funded based on the CSA guidelines.**

### *HOPE4Kids*

Hope4Kids is a non-profit that provides funding for extra-curricular, and enrichment activities, and other needs that may not be met through our other resource partners. **Families or social workers should contact Elisa Carreno at 289-1926 to determine eligibility.**

## Respite Care

### *Channel Islands Social Services*

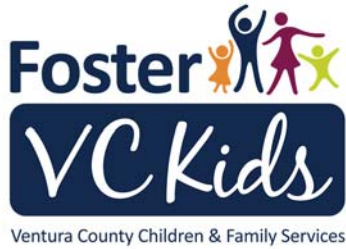
Foster parents and relative caregivers are eligible for up to 12 hours of FREE respite care each month. Families caring for children ages 9 or under, or a child with special needs, are automatically eligible and can contact [Channel Islands Social Services](#) directly at (805) 384-0983 to register. If the family is caring for children over 9 or requires more than 12 hours, social workers can make the referral directly to CISS (see attached exception form) and CC [Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org](mailto:Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org). These cases will be reviewed for need, natural support system, and plan for when the short term exception ends.

## Child Care/Child Development

### *Child Development Resources*

[Child Development Resources](#) administers a range of childcare programs and provides referrals to community child care providers. Foster children may receive priority assignment from the wait list and subsidies with verification from their social worker that the child is a court dependent minor. In order to apply, foster parents should complete the following steps:

1. Complete the Centralized Eligibility List Application, which can be downloaded here: [https://www.childdevelopmentresources.org/TextPages/how\\_do\\_i\\_enroll.aspx](https://www.childdevelopmentresources.org/TextPages/how_do_i_enroll.aspx)



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2. Provide the completed application to Elisa Carreno at [elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:elisa.carreno@ventura.org) or fax to 654-3454. She will verify the child is a dependent minor and will submit the application packet, with the verification, to CDR directly.
3. Elisa will follow up with caregivers to confirm the application has been submitted and provide them the CDR contact information so that you are able to check the status of the application.

### ***Easter Seals***

The Easter Seals Child Development Center serves children ages 2-5. Foster children typically qualify for very low or no cost services. Preschool scheduling is dependent on the family's work or school schedule and will be determined at the time of application. Easter Seals also offers a part time program for children preparing for kindergarten! Contact Caitlin Neely at 647-1141 ext. 11 for more information or to apply!

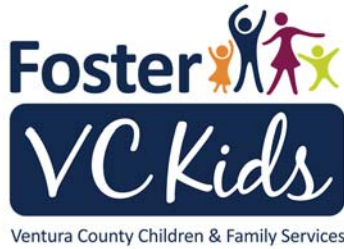
### ***Child Development Centers***

Child Development Inc. operates early care and education that serve children birth through twelve years of age. They offer a variety of infant, preschool and school age programs. They work with school districts to provide before and after school programs, including homework assistance and kindergarten readiness programs to families. CDC also provides preschool programs in Oxnard, Fillmore, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, & Port Hueneme. Foster children are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. Call (805) 483-6756 or visit <http://www.cdicdc.org/programs.php>. Contact [elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:elisa.carreno@ventura.org) for an application and flyer for the preschool programs

### ***Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL)***

First 5 Ventura County has multiple NfL sites that offer parenting support, early literacy activities, and case management for families with children that are 0-5. For more information, go online:

<http://www.first5ventura.org/resources-for-families/interactive-nfl-map/>



# Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

## Training

### ***Foster & Kinship Care Education***

The Foster & Kinship Care Education program through the Community College District offers ongoing education and training opportunities to caregivers. Families and staff can attend any training regardless of their location. FKCE sends email to caregivers with class updates.

- Oxnard College: Debbie Flowers at 805-986-5800 ext. 2018 or [debbieflowers@vcccd.edu](mailto:debbieflowers@vcccd.edu)
- Ventura College: Rhonda Carlson at 805-289-6327 or [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu)
- Moorpark College: Jason Lee at (805) 553-4837 or [Jason\\_lee5@vcccd.edu](mailto:Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu)

### ***Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA)***

Bi-monthly meeting, free education classes, CPR/First Aid, support, and advocacy.  
<http://www.vcfpa.com/> or 805-285-3790 for more information.

### ***Online Training***

- Florida's Just in Time Training <http://jitfl.cbcs.usf.edu/>
- Foster Care & Adoptive Community <http://fosterparents.com/>
- Department of Washington Social and Health Services  
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp>
- Foster Parent College <http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/>
- Foster Club <http://www.fosterclub.com/booster/article/foster-parent-online-training>

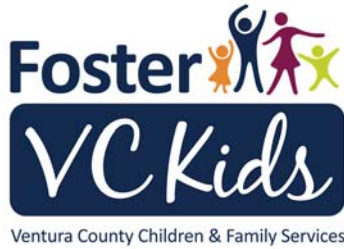
## Networking

Foster Parent Networking provides foster parents the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other foster parents in their communities.

***Simi Valley:*** Meets 2nd Friday of the Month at Cornerstone Church. Contact Jason Lee [Jason\\_lee5@vcccd.edu](mailto:Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu) for more information.

***Ventura:*** Evening meeting meets last Tuesday from 6-8 pm; Morning meetings meet the last Wednesday from 10am-12pm at Ventura Missionary Church (subject to change). Contact [Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org](mailto:Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org) for evening networking. Contact [Cynthia.hutchison@ventura.org](mailto:Cynthia.hutchison@ventura.org) for daytime networking.

***Spanish:*** Last Wednesday from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church (subject to change). Contact [Victoria.gonzales@ventura.org](mailto:Victoria.gonzales@ventura.org) for more info.



# Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

**Camarillo:** Until January, meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 at 1313 Avenida de Aprisa, Camarillo. This is a Christian faith based group, though all are welcome. Call Karen at 258-9804 for more info or visit <http://www.defendingthefatherless.net/>.

## For Relative Care Givers

For further information, email [kssp@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:kssp@kidsandfamilies.org) or call 643-1446 ext. 125.

**Oxnard Resource Group:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sierra Linda Elementary School, 2201 Jasmine Street, Oxnard

**Ventura Resource Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Kids & Families Together 856 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura

**Simi Valley Resource Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 9:30 am-11:00 am, Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

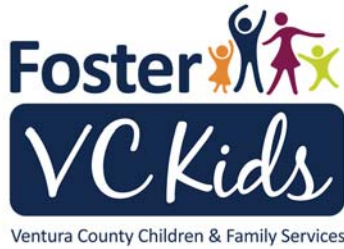
**Thousand Oaks Resource Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Senior Concerns, 401 Hodencamp Rd. Thousand Oaks

**Santa Paula Resource Group (Spanish):** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month, 9:00am- 11:00am, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 427 N. Oak St, Santa Paula

**Oxnard Resource Group (Spanish):** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 6:00-8:00 pm, Driffill Elementary, 910 S. E St., Oxnard

## Education

**Foster Youth Services Program:** FYS works in collaboration with foster Liaisons in each district in the county to ensure that the educational, physical, social and emotional needs of foster youth are identified, to determine gaps in educational and social support services and provide those services, directly or through referrals to collaborative partners. The program also seeks to facilitate the completion and timely transfer of school records, improve students' academic achievement, reduce truancy, dropout rates and delinquent behavior, and provide advocacy to promote the best interest of foster youths throughout the county. Contact Laura Welbourn or Ralph Velarde at 437-1525 [fys@vcoe.org](mailto:fys@vcoe.org)



# Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

## In-home Support & Contract Programs

***In-home Placement Training (IPT& KIPT):*** This program is required for newly licensed foster parents or approved relative caregivers to receive 8 hours of additional training in trauma, attachment, working with birth families, and self-care. Families are automatically referred after obtaining their license or receive a relative placement. Contact Melana 805-643-1446 Ext. 116.

***Support & Education Program (SET):*** In home services for foster parents or relative caregivers who have children with trauma histories in their homes, are struggling with behavioral challenges, or need support and training in connecting with the child. Contact Melana Luke 805-643-1446 Ext. 116 or [Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org](mailto:Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org) to refer a family. Referrals must be submitted by CFS staff.

***Peer Partner & Educator (PPE) Program:*** Provides mentors to new foster parents. All foster parents are matched to a mentor when they get their first placement. Contact [cmcauliffe@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:cmcauliffe@kidsandfamilies.org)

***KSSP Support Groups & Kinship PPE Programs:*** Support for Relative Caregivers. Contact [jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org) or [rzapata@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:rzapata@kidsandfamilies.org) for more information.

***Hair Whisperers:*** CFS has a contract with Hair Whisperers for in-home lice removal. Contact [Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org](mailto:Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org) for a referral.