

June is:

Reunification
Month

&

Pride
Month

#####

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Thanks for all you do!



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Preventing the "Summer Slide"

Kids over the summer regardless of academic achievement often experience the summer slide, a temporary regression of academic skills. To continue engaging over the summer, here are some free or inexpensive ways to encourage kids to interact with reading and math.

- Enroll in your local library summer reading challenge
- Attend Story Hour
- Create a summer writing journal. You can give your kids prompts about summertime.
- Maintain your bedtime reading routine.
- Play boardgames like Monopoly or the Pokémon card game
- Find games and apps that your children enjoy like Prodigy, ABC Mouse, and Adventure Academy
- Incorporate math and reading into your day. For example, have find the best deal at the grocery store or read signs at the zoo.
- Find online classes that your kids may be interested on platforms like [Outschool.com](https://www.outschool.com/).

Children's Division Caregiver Portal

Have you ever wondered about your payment from the Children's Division or if the correct address is on file? Now you have a way to check those items through the [Children's Division Caregiver Portal](#).

This portal was developed for all resource providers (traditional, relative, respite, legal guardianship and adoptive parents). The intention of the portal is to provide resource parents (and staff) with the tools to manage their accounts.

This portal is the first phase of a multi-year project. The current phase allows caregivers to see their demographics, placements and financial information. Eventually you will be able to upload your clothing and mileage reimbursements and be able to keep track of your training. Our hope is that the portal helps communication and collaboration with Foster Parents.

https://my.mo.gov/gsp?id=childrens_division_caregiver_portal



Call to Foster Podcast:

101 Considerations for Foster Parents

S2 E5

Hosts speak with author, youth pastor and foster parent, David Wermuth. David has over 11 years of experience as a foster parent to older teen boys with a goal of independence. He used his experience as a foster parent to share stories of encouragement and helpful tips in his book, *101 Considerations for Foster Parents*. A licensed therapist in Missouri, David specializes in working with children and families. You will want to be sure to listen in on this episode!

Listen here:

<https://thecalltofooster.transistor.fm/episodes/101-considerations-for-foster-parents>

We Need Your Help at a Safe Place for Kids with Marygrove Children's Home

Saint Louis Partners is collaborating with Marygrove Children's Home to provide a temporary, safe place for kids to land who are awaiting foster home placement.

The children (no more than two) will be in a house on Marygrove's campus (2705 Mullanphy Lane, Florissant, MO 63031) - and we need your help!

When kids are placed in the home, we will need foster parents to sit with the child(ren) while agency staff are searching for placement.

Ideally, we would like you to commit to a 4-hour shift, but it is negotiable. Depending on the needs of the child(ren), you may work alone or there might be a second person on duty with you.

SLP will compensate foster parents \$35/hour for assisting. Shifts are available now, but if you do not have availability, let us know if you would like to be contacted directly for future needs. Contact Deva at 314-854-5722 or dblackman@gsstl.org for additional information. Your help is greatly appreciated!





Training: **Protecting Children from Child Sexual Abuse**

Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face, with the most serious array of consequences. In fact, one in ten (1 in 10) children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.

Many training courses focus of informing children on ways to keep themselves safe or speaking with a trusted adult.

Fact: 1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday

This is an important step for child safety, and it is imperative that we as adults also ensure safe environments for children.

Stewards of Children focuses on making choices that protect children, taking risks to minimize danger to children, supporting each other in making safe environments for children. If you are interested in taking this training, opportunities can be found at [Stewards of Children - Missouri KidsFirst](https://www.missourikidsfirst.org/soc/) (<https://www.missourikidsfirst.org/soc/>).

Book Recommendation: **Understanding Childhood Trauma**

If you are seeking to deepen your understanding of childhood trauma, consider picking up a copy of *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Trauma and Adversity* by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris.

This book discusses the impact ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and how ACES impact a person throughout their life.

Dr. Burke was a pediatrician in a low-income neighborhood in San Francisco where she was first confronted with the relationship between (cont. next page...)

Together, we can make a difference by educating ourselves on the prevention of child sexual abuse!



1 in 3 girls, 1 in 7 boys are sexually abused before age 18

Free Kids' Lunches at the Library



Operation Food Search is providing free lunches for children this summer at select library locations through August 16.

This includes a nutritious lunch along with activities for kids from Noon-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Pizza will be provided on Fridays.

Operation Food Search is partnering with both St. Louis County Librarians and the St. Charles City-County Library. Here are the locations...

The summer lunch program is also offered at the following St. Louis County Library Branches:

Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044

Florissant Valley Branch, 195 N. Florissant Road S., Florissant, MO 63031

Jamestown Bluffs Branch, 4153 N. Highway 67 Florissant, MO 63034

Lewis & Clark Branch, 9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63136

Natural Bridge Branch, 7606 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis, MO 63121

Parkview Branch, 8400 Delport Drive St. Louis, MO 63114

Prairie Commons Branch, 915 Utz Lane Hazelwood, MO 63042

Rock Road Branch, 10267 St. Charles Rock Road St. Ann, MO 63074

Weber Road Branch, 4444 Weber Road St. Louis, MO 63123

Learn more at <https://www.slcl.org/library-services/summer-lunches>.

Lunch @ the Library also returns to the St. Charles City-County Library at the Kathryn Linnemann Branch, 2323 Elm Street in St. Charles, MO <https://www.stchlibrary.org/lunch-library-returns-kathryn-linnemann-branch>.

Understanding Childhood Trauma Book Recommendation cont. ...

childhood trauma and the health ramifications. She has also given a presentation at TED on the same topic.

As always, if you decide to read the book, please submit it to your licensing worker for continuing education credit. Each book is counted as one hour per one hundred pages.

You may also listen to the TED Talk for credit, and you may speak with your licensing worker about the CD-114 form.

Listen to TED Talk:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95ovlJ3dsNk>



Interested in Adoption, Foster Care or Mentoring?

We would love to hear from you! We always have kids in need of a loving home and mentors to provide support. To learn more, call Saint Louis Partners 314-938-5690.

Upcoming Events:

For all the great events offered by our partners, check out the links below!

- **Bringing Families Together**
BringingFamiliesTogether.com – coming soon!
facebook.com/BringingFamiliesTogetherSTL/events
- **Good Shepherd Children & Family Services**
goodshepherdstl.org/event-landing-page/
facebook.com/goodshepherdstl/events/
- **Lutheran Family & Children’s Services of Missouri**
lfcsmo.org/about/events/
facebook.com/LFCSMO/events

Saint Louis Partners - June 2024

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www.saintlouispartners.org



All agencies are accredited by Council on Accreditation

For nearly eighteen years, Saint Louis PARTNERS (Permanency: Achieving Results Through Networking, Education, Resources and Services) has been investing in the strength and stability of family through compassionate, comprehensive foster care and adoptive services. Our primary goal for each child is to create a bridge home to permanence, anchoring a child in the rich and trusted love of family.

Our primary partner in this effort is you, the foster parent.

Saint Louis PARTNERS unites a partnership of three strong agencies:

