



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN




May 2021 Newsletter

Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler

Topic One



 **Adams County Staff will be full time back in the office starting May 3rd**

Topic Two

**The Office will be closed:
May 31st, 2021
Memorial Day**



Topic Three



- 5-Sharon Kraus
 - 5-Sandra Barger
 - 13-Kathy Obert
 - 15-Tommi Schlueter
 - 18-Dawn Schenk
 - 21-Erica Parrish
 - 21-Grace Crowcroft
 - 22-Patty Stevens
 - 26-Chelsie Mason
 - 28-Lori Stice
- Enjoy Your Day!**

Hancock County

Volunteers are encouraged to join other county zoom networking for CEUs, as well as the Adams county in-service.

May 6th Pike, Cass, Schuyler, & Brown County

Learn & Grow
Topic: The Impact of COVID-19 on Children's Mental Health
Time: 5:30pm
Via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85967056115>

May EVENTS

May 13th Adams County

Noon Networking
Topic: Quanada Jennifer Vancil
Time: 12:00pm
Via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84617371905>

May 13th Adams County

In-Service
Time: 5:30-7:00pm
@ Hope Lutheran Church
1739 Harrison St (in basement)
Topic: Atlas Behavior Services
Jacqueline Hildebrand

May 18th Morgan County

Volunteer Meeting
Time: 10:30-11:30am
Location TBA



Understanding the Child's Response to Birth Parent Visits

From "[*Changes in Children's Behavior Before and After Parent Visits*](#)," from the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development

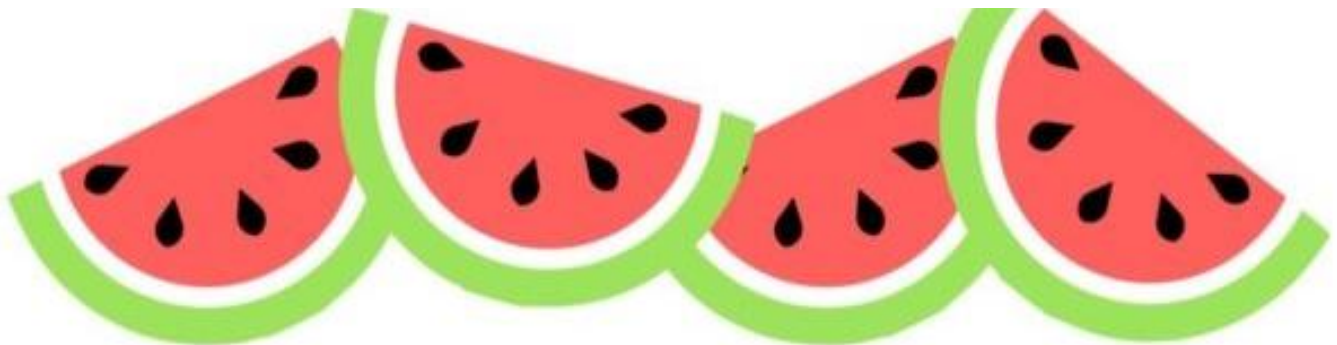
There are no foolproof ways to guarantee that visits between children and their birth parents will be successful. But knowing about behaviors you might see and taking a few steps to prepare a child should help.

Before-visit symptoms. Children can be affected by knowing that a visit with their birth parents is approaching. Here are some of the symptoms you might see in your child before the visit:

- Nightmares and sleep disturbances.
- Unrealistic expectations about how the visit will go.
- Anxiety.

After-visit symptoms. Children can experience a variety of feelings after visiting with their birth parents. They also might behave in ways that are difficult to cope with. Feelings and behaviors you might see from your child after a visit include:

- Nightmares and sleep disturbances.
- Crying, sometimes excessively.
- Sadness.
- Disappointment.
- Acting out, such as stomping feet, displaying antisocial behavior, and ignoring family members.
- Anger.
- Ambivalence.
- Withdrawal.
- Anxiety.





Preparing for the visit. It is important to do what you can to prepare the children for a visit with birth parents. Here are some suggestions:

- Make the necessary changes in your family’s schedule to accommodate the visit.
- Work with the birth parents to plan and schedule visits.
- Keep the child informed of planned visits.
- Have some special before-visit rituals to comfort the child, such as arranging special clothes or fixing the child’s hair in a particular way.
- Be realistic with the child about which family members will and will not be at the visits— for example, mom only, mom and dad, grandparents, etc.
- Be open about which non-family members will be at the visit. These might include a social worker, other caseworkers, yourself, etc.
- Provide extra emotional support to your child before the visit.
- Make a game out of before-visit time. You might, for example, let the children “play the social worker” by having them ask questions and play the role.
- Find out what the child would like to do at the visit and try to arrange the activity. If his or her idea is not realistic, work with him or her to come up with a more practical plan.
- Talk about any items – toys, books, etc. – they would like to take to the visit.

After-visit support. There may be some circumstances that occur that need attention after the visit. Here are some suggestions for handling the period after the visit.

- Talk to the child and about how the visit went.
- Let the child talk about how he or she feels about the visit and parents.
- Encourage questions about the visit or the foster situation. Answer them as honestly as possible.
- Reassure the children about any issues they might be concerned about.
- Ask your child what kinds of activities he or she would like to do at the next visit.
- Explain that you understand it can be difficult to visit parents for a little while and then have to leave them again.
- If possible, let the child know when the next visit is scheduled.
- Spend additional time nurturing the child and showing extra affection. Do this regardless of how the visit went, but especially when a visit does not go well.
- If the child is consistently unhappy or distressed after visits, report this to the social worker.
- Report any suspicion of child abuse immediately.

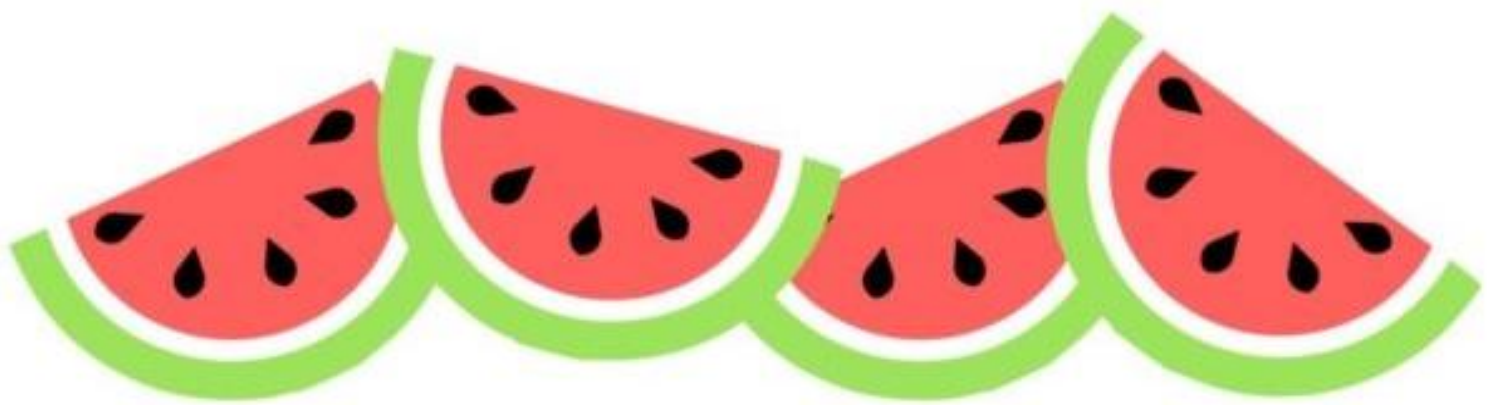




When a visit is canceled. A canceled visit can be hard on a child. Here are ways to support the child when that happens:

- Provide additional comforting when visits are canceled, for whatever reason.
- When telling the child about a canceled visit, do not blame. Simply explain that the parent made certain choices, the social worker had to reschedule, etc.
- Assure the child that he or she is not the reason the visit was canceled, he or she did not do anything wrong, and he or she is still loved.
- Try to do the activity with the child that was planned with the parents, if possible.
- Spend extra time with the child.

When to seek professional help. Changes in a child's behavior after a visit do not necessarily mean the visit hurt the child. The change might, for example, mean the child has a secure attachment with the parent and that he or she is upset about having to leave the parent again. However, if the behavior changes are severe or overly disruptive to the foster family, professional help may be necessary, and the situation should be brought to the attention of the child's social worker.



Our Counties Showing Their Support!



Pike County



Morgan County State's Attorney Chad Turner & Juvenile Judge Tobin



Cass County



Adams County



Brown County



Hancock County