



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



August 2024 Newsletter

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

Friendly Reminders!

*Every Friday on the Advocacy Network's Facebook page, we are doing a "feature Friday" where we will feature staff, volunteers, and board members. We would like our volunteers interested to email Erica eparrish@advonet.org a photo of themselves and why they enjoy being a CASA volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Fundraiser Dinner:
Tailgate To Celebrate

When: October 18th, 2024

Time: Pregame Cocktails- 6pm
Kickoff Dinner-7pm

Where: The Ambiance; 5225
Kochs Lane Quincy, IL 62305

More Information to
come!

Birthdays!

2-Teresa Kuchling
4-Sarah Lucey
6-Brooke Wells
9-David Elschlager
14-Julie Bruninga
17-Abbie Ray
18-Nathan Nash
21-Barbara Parkhill
23-Kathy Yingling
27-Kearstin Sill
31-Charles Otte



QNF Back to School Fair

When: August 6th, 2024

Time: 5-7pm.

Where: Between 8th and 9th on
Payson ave.

The is free and open to the
public for all school age
children.

-all kids must be present at the
event to receive the punch card
to get the items.

-parents or guardians must be
present to sign for physicals or
immunizations.

-family bags are limited to one
per household to the first 150
families who attend.

augUST

Webinar: Positive Youth
Development Approach

Link: [Bing Videos](#)

Back to School Safety Tips

-Pick a backpack that is the
correct size, has padded
back/shoulder straps and has
reflective material.

-Use extra caution and safely
share roads with school
buses, pedestrians and
bicyclists.

-Always use a crosswalk
when one is available.

-Remind teen drivers to stay
off their cell phones while
traveling to school.

8 Ways to Prep Kids In Care For A Successful Back-To-School Season

1. Create a Supportive Environment

The foundation of a successful school year for children in care lies in providing a nurturing and supportive environment at home or in their foster placements. Ensure that caregivers and teachers work together to build strong relationships with the children. Open lines of communication, active listening, and understanding are crucial in helping the child feel secure and valued.

2. Gather Necessary School Supplies

Heading back to school requires an array of supplies, and for kids in foster care, obtaining these essentials can be difficult. Collaborate with local community organizations – including Together for Youth- or schools to provide backpacks, notebooks, pens, and other essential items. This not only equips them for academic success but also boosts their confidence and excitement about the upcoming year. Make sure to talk to your BFC family specialist about possible supply drives in your area.

3. Set Realistic Expectations

Each child has unique strengths and challenges, so setting realistic academic and behavioral expectations is vital. Recognize that some children may need additional academic support, and work with teachers and educators to create personalized learning plans to address their needs.

4. Arrange School Visits if Possible

For children who are changing schools or starting their educational journey for the first time, arranging pre-school visits can alleviate anxiety and stress. Familiarizing them with the school's layout, meeting teachers, and interacting with fellow students can make the transition smoother.

5. Encourage Extracurricular Activities

Participation in extracurricular activities can significantly enhance a child's social skills, confidence, and overall school experience. Encourage kids in care to join clubs, sports teams, or art classes, providing them with opportunities to explore their interests and develop meaningful connections.

6. Address Emotional Well-being

Many children in foster care may carry emotional baggage from their past experiences. Create a safe space where they can express their feelings and fears without judgment. If needed, consider involving professional counselors or their care management team to help them cope with emotional challenges and build resilience.

7. Support Education Stability

Frequent school changes can hinder a child's academic progress. To ensure stability, collaborate with the child's caseworker, teachers, and school administrators to minimize unnecessary school transfers. Continuity in education can significantly impact a youth's sense of belonging and academic performance.

8. Promote Collaboration with Teachers

Communication between caregivers and teachers is essential to understand a child's progress and address any emerging concerns promptly. Regularly attend parent-teacher conferences and maintain an open dialogue with educators to support the child's learning journey effectively.