

Spring 2011

# Newsletter

## for the Children

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## Newsletter News!

For The Children will now produce our newsletter quarterly rather than monthly. We will have a Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter edition. Please drop us an e-mail or speak to a Board member at an FTC meeting and let us know what you would like to read about and we'll do our best to include it in an upcoming issue.

## May is National Foster Care Month

In the U.S., over 424,000 children are in Foster care on any given day and only about half of those kids will ever return home. Some of these children will be placed in relative care, some will be adopted, others will spend years in a group home and sadly, some will run away to live on the streets or worse.

Wouldn't it be great if there was a quality "out of home care" option for each child that might come into the Foster system? As Foster parents ourselves, we know the challenges, as well as the joys, of providing a safe, nurturing home for these kids. Who better than us to help spread the word and ask others to learn about foster care and open their home to the Nation's children?

Wear a blue ribbon in May for National Foster Care Month to help raise awareness. Ask others to join in helping those children who can no longer live in their biological home. Thank the social workers, teachers, judges and others who advocate tirelessly on behalf of these kids. Continue to be a loving Foster parent and be sure to give your Foster kids an extra special hug in May.

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A FOSTER PARENT!

## Are the kids safe in the car?

Do I need to keep my 2 yr. old in a rear facing car seat? Can my toddler use a booster?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently published surprising new recommendations for child safety seats, but these are only suggestions at this point, not laws. Do you know what the actual State law requires right now?

Here are a few car seat safety tips and a copy of the California Highway Patrol's "4 Steps for Kids" brochure. You can always visit your local police or CHP office to ask questions or check installation.

- **Buckle your child in a safety seat every time, every trip, no matter how short.**
- **All children under the age of 16 must be buckled up.**
- **Make sure the safety seat you use is installed correctly.**
- **Never buy a used or damaged car seat. Hidden damage or old technology can kill.**
- **Understand the child safety seat laws of any State you travel through. Fines range from \$10-\$500 and you are responsible for obeying all the traffic laws wherever you drive.**

## New meeting location?

The Board members are currently looking for a new location to hold For The Children's monthly meetings. Ideally, the new location would be centered in the mid-valley area, along the I-10 corridor, to make it easier for both East and West valley members to attend. If you know of any possible locations, please contact Silvia a.s.a.p.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to bringing together and providing support for foster, resource, adoptive, and relative care providers. We strive to develop a better understanding of the issues and challenges of foster care by working together, recruiting, promoting, special projects, advocacy, mentoring, educating, training, developing and strengthening the bonds between the children, the members, the community and organizations in the Coachella Valley.

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Each year in April, the President of the United States issues a proclamation to announce national Child Abuse Prevention Month. Many State Governors also issue proclamations to encourage public awareness of child abuse and neglect, recommit State resources to the cause and promote community involvement through State and local involvement.

While Federal legislation sets minimum standards for States that accept Federal funding, each State is responsible for defining child maltreatment in State law. Most States recognize four major types of maltreatment in their definitions, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse or neglect. Foster parents, along with social workers, teachers and others who come in frequent contact with children are *mandated reporters of abuse and neglect* under State law.

What should you do if you suspect abuse or neglect of a foster child in your care? Immediately contact the child's social worker and report your suspicions. If you can not reach the child's worker directly, call the CPS 24 hour emergency line at 1-800-442-4918 or 911 if you feel the child is in immediate danger. You should also call DPS if you suspect a child outside of your care has been abused or neglected.

Here are a few things you can do for yourself to help prevent child abuse as well as for kids in your care who may have been abused:

- ★ **Read books with your children about feelings and discuss with them.**
- ★ **Catch your kids doing something good and give them praise.**
- ★ **Talk to your partner about stress and child rearing and work together as a team to carry the load.**
- ★ **Teach kids to resolve conflicts peacefully.**
- ★ **Remember - children are watching and listening.**

For more information on the prevention of child abuse, visit [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

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## Upcoming Events- April

### *Palm Desert Public Library:*

- Wednesday, April 6th 10:30am to 1:00pm: 13th Annual Libraries are Fun Festival! Día de los niños/ día de los libros. This event will have clowns, a magician, games, prizes, and snacks. Open to the whole family.
- Wednesdays at 6:30 (except for April 6th)- Pajama Tales, kids come dressed in their jammies to read stories, do arts and crafts, and enjoy snacks.

### *University of California Riverside- palm Desert Campus:*

- Saturday, April 16th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Arbor Day Event. Volunteers will help plant native desert plants at the palm Desert UCR Campus. All attendees will receive their own native plant to take home.

### *Living Desert:*

- Saturday, April 9th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm: Party for the Planet- Earth Day Celebration. Admission to the Living Desert is half price on April 9th (regularly \$14.25 for adults and \$7.75 for kids ages 3-12). At this event there will be arts and crafts, BBQ, live music, build your own solar robot, and so much more. If you bring a recyclable plastic bottle you will receive one free native desert plant.

### *Palm Springs Air Museum:*

- Monday, May 30th: Memorial Day Flower Drop. Over 3,000 red and white carnations will be dropped from above the crowd.

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## The HUE- A Music and Arts Festival for the Whole Family

On Saturday, April 9th Building Healthy Communities- Eastern Coachella Valley will be hosting their first annual music and arts festival called The HUE. This event will take place at Dateland Park in Coachella from 2pm to 8pm. This event features artists of all kinds from throughout the Coachella Valley. There will be two stages featuring 15 local bands playing music of various genres. Local artists and filmmakers will exhibit their work. The event will have arts and culture activities, healthy food, sustainability workshops and much more. Admission to this event is free to everyone.

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## JOKES

Q. How do bunnies like to travel?

A. By HAREplane

Q. Where does the Easter bunny eat breakfast?

A. IHOP

Q. What do you get when you cross a bunny with an oyster?

A. The Oyster Bunny

Q. How does the Easter Bunny throw a tantrum?

A. He gets hopping mad

# CALIFORNIA VEHICLE RESTRAINT LAWS

*All vehicles except buses and motorcycles*

## INFANTS AND SMALL CHILDREN

As of January 1, 2005

**V.C. 27360(a)** Cite parent/guardian for each child who is not properly restrained in the rear seat unless the child is six years or older or weighs 60 pounds or more.

**V.C. 27360(b)** Cite driver only if parent is not present.

**Exceptions:**

1. Court sanctioned exemption, medical condition, physical unfitness, or size.
2. Life threatening emergency or transported in authorized emergency vehicle.
3. Child over 40 pounds in rear seat of vehicle with lap belts only.

Each child is required to be properly restrained in the back seat unless child is six years or older or weighs 60 pounds or more.

**Exceptions: V.C. 27360(c)** a child or ward under the age of six years who weighs less than 60 pounds may ride in the front seat of a motor vehicle, if properly secured in a Child Passenger Restraint System (CPRS) that meets applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards, under the following circumstances:

- A. There is no rear seat.
- B. The rear seats are side-facing jump seats.
- C. The rear seats are rear-facing seats.
- D. The Child Passenger Restraint System cannot be installed properly in the rear seat.
- E. All rear seats are already occupied by children under the age of 12 years.
- F. Medical reasons necessitate that the child or ward not ride in the rear seat.  
The court may require satisfactory proof of the child's medical condition.

**A child may NOT ride in the front seat with an active passenger airbag if:**

- A. Under one year of age.
- B. Weighs less than 20 pounds.
- C. Riding in a rear-facing Child Passenger Restraint System.

## OTHER OCCUPANTS

**V.C. 27360.5(a)** Cite parent/guardian for each child who is unrestrained and is 6 years of age but less than 16, or is less than 6 years and weighs 60 pounds or more.

**V.C. 27360.5(b)** Same as above but cite driver only if parent is not present.

**V.C. 27315(d)** Cite driver for self and all passengers 16 or older not properly secured in a safety belt.

**V.C. 27315(e)** Cite each passenger 16 or older not properly secured in safety belt.

**V.C. 27315(f)** Cite registered owner if safety belts have been removed or not working.

**Exceptions:** Taxi driver on city street w/fare paying passenger, back seat of limousine and taxi cabs for hire, sleeper berth, newspaper delivery, rural mail carriers, solid waste/recycled collections, physically disabling or medical condition: duly certified by physician, surgeon, or chiropractor, must state condition and reason.

## PICKUP LAW

**V.C. 23116** Cite driver (a) and/or persons (b) riding unrestrained in or on the back of pickup truck or flatbed.

## UNATTENDED CHILD IN A MOTOR VEHICLE

**V.C. 15620(a)** A person responsible for a child age 6 or under may not leave the child inside a vehicle without a person who is at least 12 years of age if there are conditions that present a significant risk to child's health or safety or engine is running and/or keys are in the ignition.

## 4 STEPS FOR KIDS

***Cite parent/guardian for each child who is not properly restrained in the rear seat unless the child is six years or older or weighs 60 pounds or more***

### Step 1 REAR-FACING SEATS

- Newborns and infants up to 20-35 pounds.
- Babies must ride rear-facing until one year of age AND at least 20 pounds.
- Seat can never be forward facing.



### Step 2 FORWARD FACING SEATS

- Children over one year of age AND at least 20 pounds.
- Face forward only.
- Most can be converted to a belt positioning booster after child reaches 40 pounds.



### Step 3 BOOSTER SEATS

- For children over 40 pounds.
- Must be used with lap and shoulder belts.
- Lap belt fits low and tight across hips.
- Shoulder belt crosses the collar bone and center of chest.



### Step 4 SEAT BELT

- Age 6 or older or over 60 pounds.
- Must be in the back seat unless exempt.
- *NHTSA recommends all children 12 and under should be in the back seat.*



*A portion of fines collected for these citations are used to provide education and child restraints to low income families*



**UC DAVIS**  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

