

# Alannah Family Newsletter

## October 2009 Edition



What's coming up...

- Next foster parent training: November 11, 2009 6-8 p.m.  
Please RSVP to Maria at 951-367-1220.
- Halloween Party at Alannah Thursday, October 29  
2-4:30 p.m. Trick or treat with us.  
Don't forget to come in costume!

### What is Halloween?

Halloween (or Hallowe'en ... but also known as Samhain, Summer's End, All Hallow's Eve, Witches Night, Lamswool, and Snap-Apple), is a holiday that's celebrated annually on the night of October 31. It originated in Ireland, and is celebrated in quite a few countries including Ireland itself, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden among others. It's celebrated in a variety of ways and activities including trick-or-treating, ghost tours, bonfires, costume parties, "haunted house" tours, carving pumpkins (Jack-o'-lanterns) and reading / watching scary stories / movies.

### Halloween Jokes

Why do mummies have trouble keeping friends?

They're so wrapped up in themselves ...

What happened to the guy who couldn't keep up payments to his exorcist?

He was repossessed!

Why do male ghosts have so much trouble dating?

Women can see right through them!



### A Message from our Director:

I hope this letter finds all of you well and looking forward to the cooler weather.

I wanted to take this opportunity to address some problems that have come up lately regarding the issues of babysitting, respite care, and removal notices. Let's start with babysitting.

According to CCL, there are three types of babysitters- occasional babysitters, regular babysitters and Emergency Back-up Babysitters. The Prudent Parent Act allows foster parents to use an **occasional babysitter** for up to 24 hours (but not overnight). This babysitter must sit in the foster home, does not have to be fingerprinted and can be a teenager. The occasional babysitter can be used to baby sit foster children for such occasional instances as going shopping, running errands, going out for the evening, etc. A **regular babysitter** is one who is used for regular day care

purposes, such as while the foster parent is at work. This babysitter must be fingerprinted and cleared. The day care can take place in the babysitter's home if it is a certified day care facility. CCL requires that all certified foster homes have an **Emergency Back-up Babysitter**. This sitter must be fingerprinted and cleared. They are to be used whenever a foster parent must leave home for an emergency reason (i.e. illness or death in the family). These sitters can be used overnight in the foster parent's home. Having an Emergency Back-up Babysitter is important because if you have foster children in your home Alannah cannot guarantee immediate respite care for them if you have an emergency. In addition, our Social Workers do not provide babysitting services in these situations.

Which leads us to the topic of respite care. **Respite care** is typically a planned event. For instance, you let us know that you will be going on a vacation and

would like the children to be cared for in another home while you are gone. We request at least thirty days notice for respite care because we do not always have homes available for immediate respite care.

In the case of removal notices, I must remind you that you agreed in writing when you became a foster parent to give Alannah 14 days notice whenever you wanted a foster child removed from your home. This gives us and the CSW sufficient time to find an appropriate home for the child. Whenever possible we will place the child in a respite home while waiting for removal but we cannot guarantee that a home will be available to take the child.

I appreciate your understanding and cooperation,

Kurt

## Ghouls-in-the-Graveyard

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- 2 pkg. (7-1/4 oz. each) Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Dinners
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) shredded Mozzarella or Cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 pkg. (16 oz.) wieners, cut crosswise in half
- 1 tsp. yellow mustard

### MAKE IT:

- Heat oven to 350°F.
- Prepare dinners in large saucepan as directed on package.
- Stir in cheese & eggs.
- Spoon into foil-lined 13x9-inch baking dish sprayed with cooking spray.
- Stand wieners, in 4 rows of 5 wieners each, in dinner mixture for the ghouls.
- Bake 20 min.; cool 5 min.
- Add small dabs of mustard to wieners for the ghouls' eyes.
- Serve with your kid's favorite steamed veggie to round out the meal.

