



**Benchmark  
Family Services**  
Therapeutic Foster Care



"Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows."

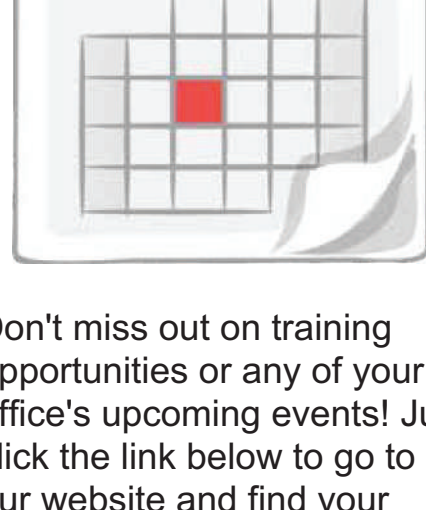
-Helen Keller

Summer is just a couple weeks away, so get ready for fun filled days and warm nights!

Father's Day is also just around the corner on June 19th. We want to thank all the wonderful dads out there, and let you know how important your role is and how much you are appreciated. Get out in the sun and spend some time with your family. We've provided a few activities below to get you started!

[Visit Our Website](#)

## Upcoming Events



Don't miss out on training opportunities or any of your office's upcoming events! Just click the link below to go to our website and find your local office!

[View Calendar](#)

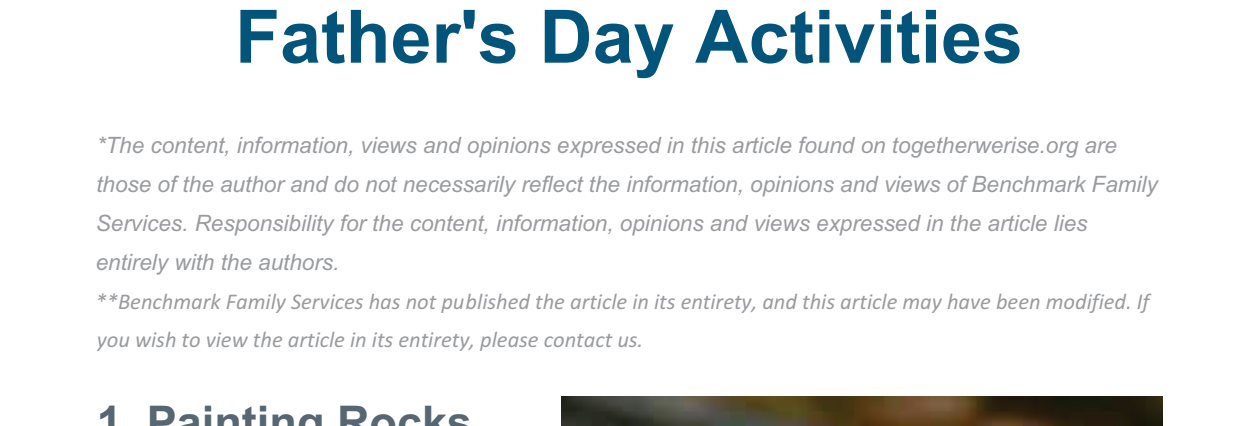
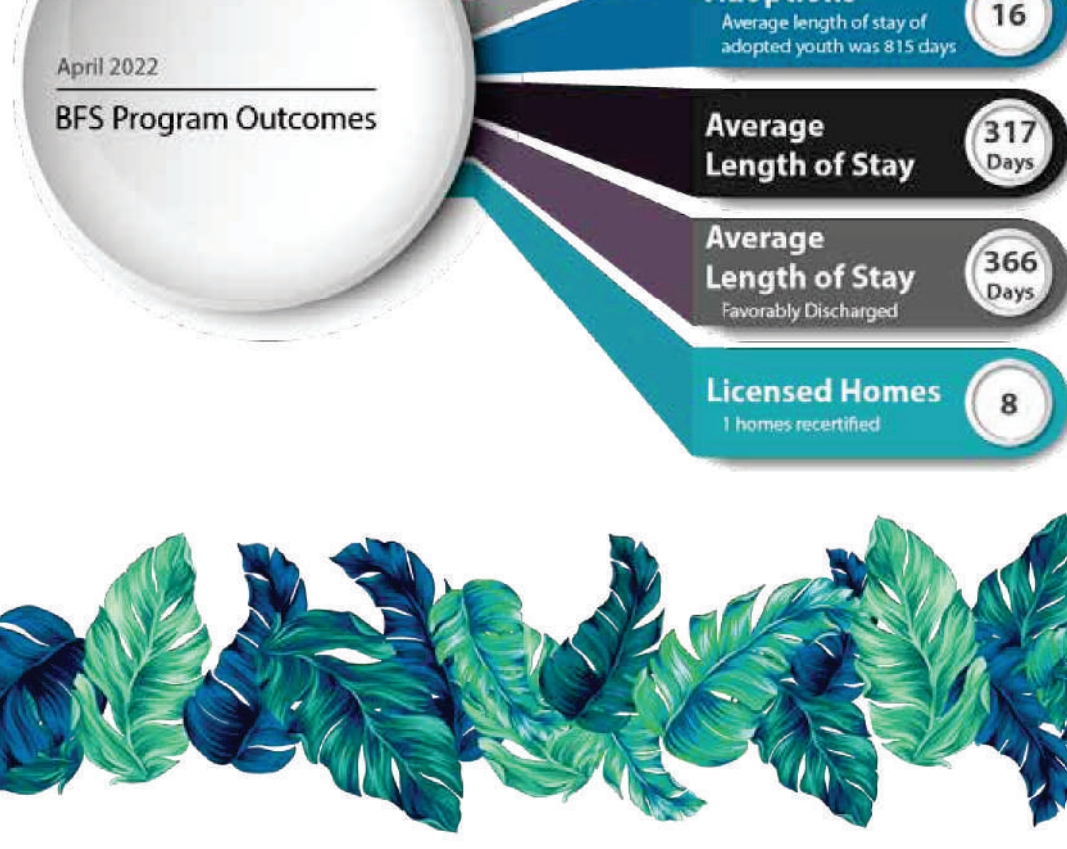
### Virtual Training Opportunities

Our virtual training sessions are live webinars, and count toward your face-to-face training hours for the year. We added all virtual training opportunities for the year to our website. [Click here](#) to easily find and sign up for the courses that are most convenient for you!

[\(6/11\) First 30 Days of Placement](#)

[\(6/23\) Medication Management & Bloodborne Pathogens](#)

## Program Outcomes



## Father's Day Activities

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### 1. Painting Rocks

What could be more fun than decorating and painting rocks with your family? All you need are some rocks with a flat side, paint, and brushes! Connect with your family and get conversations started. Ask each other engaging questions such as about what they're painting and how they came up with the designs. You might discover your child has a skill with paints or a creative imagination! A painted rock may seem small but could be a cherished keepsake for a child.

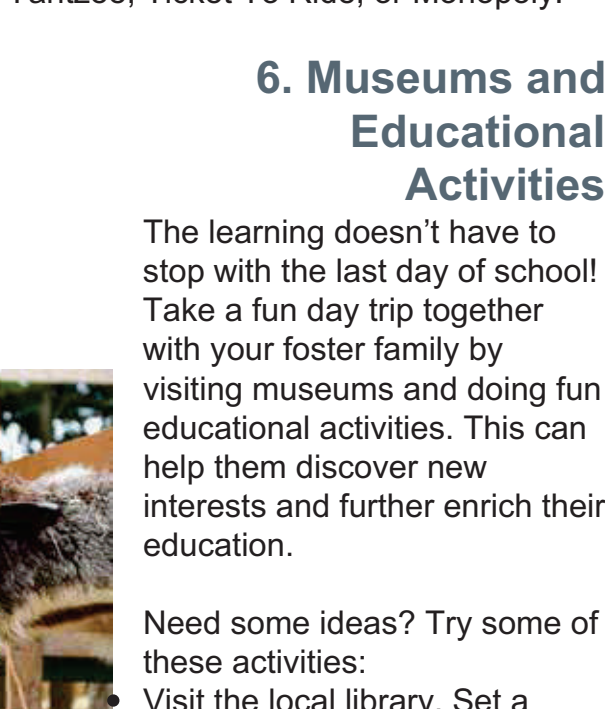


### 2. Plant a Garden

A family that gardens together, grows together! Share the joys of digging in the dirt and plant a garden with your foster family. Growing a plant from seed is an awesome way of connecting to nature and **teaches kids responsibility!** Seeing the progress and beauty of their hard work can also help kids gain self-confidence. Consider growing a vegetable garden to get your kids to eat more vegetables (hopefully!).

### 3. Backyard Camping

You don't have to travel far to appreciate the great outdoors. Instead set up a tent and enjoy a night of backyard camping with your foster family! Setting up the tent together can be a fun team challenge. Make the experience fun by sharing campfire stories and eating smores. No campfire? No problem! You can make indoor smores using the microwave or get really creative by using a **terracotta pot and charcoal briquettes** for outdoor smores fun!



### 4. Nature Walk Journal

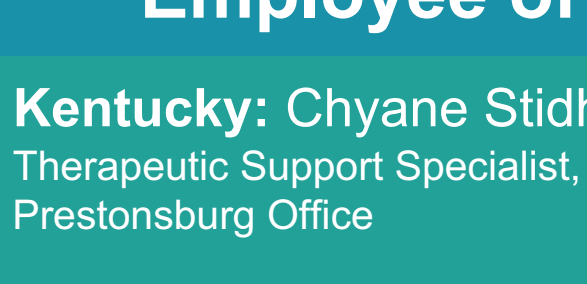
The best part about summertime is the serene nature walks. Many local parks have mapped nature trails that are easy to traverse with your foster family. Keep a nature walk journal to keep your kids engaged in discovery and learning. Have them write about the plants and animals they find. They'll have a wonderful time drawing the things they saw on the nature walk. The best thing is everyone can contribute to this activity journal and revisit fun memories the nature walks brought.

### 5. Outdoor Games

Who doesn't love a good game night? Outdoor games are a great way to help your foster family with some quality bonding time. A little friendly competition can also help kids learn **valuable life skills** such as good sportsmanship and empathy. Get your foster family involved in an outdoor game of soccer. Just kicking a ball around is an easy way to stay active and get a few good laughs in. Or dive into some fun board games, outside on the picnic table. Like Yahtzee, Ticket To Ride, or Monopoly!

### 6. Museums and Educational Activities

The learning doesn't have to stop with the last day of school! Take a fun day trip together with your foster family by visiting museums and doing fun educational activities. This can help them discover new interests and further enrich their education.



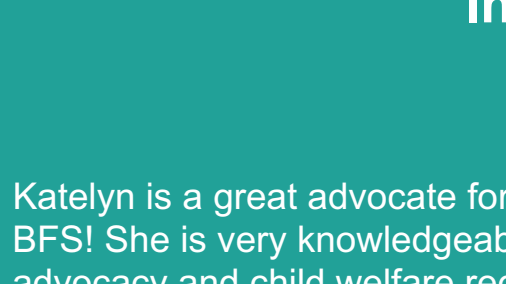
Need some ideas? Try some of these activities:

- Visit the local library. Set a reading goal and challenge your kids to read more books.

- Entice them with a summer ice cream party as a tasty reward!
- Do a science experiment outside (so the house doesn't get too messy)! Build an **erupting volcano** with baking soda and vinegar.
- Have your kids find their inner Picasso and get inspired by visiting an art museum.
- Discover and learn about cool animals with an adventurous day at the zoo or aquarium!

Many museums offer budget-friendly children's events. Visit their websites to find an event that fits your family's interests.

## Referral Bonus



With over **420,000** children in the foster care system, and over **250,000** children entering each year, we need your help!

Every month, our agency receives more referrals for children in foster care than we have beds to accommodate. With your help, we will be able to provide more of these children with a good home and a bed to rest their head. Please help spread the word and get your friends and family involved in our mission. Remember, if you are currently a foster parent with us and you successfully refer a new foster parent to our agency, you will receive a referral bonus. Please reach out to your regional office for more information!

## Employee of the Month

**Kentucky: Chyane Stidham,**  
Therapeutic Support Specialist,  
Prestonsburg Office

Chyane previously began her employment with Prestonsburg Benchmark straight out of college and was a TSS for a year and a half. She decided to explore other career opportunities and after a few short months realized she was ready to come back "home". Chyane has been back with us for 4 months and has picked up where she left off. Chyane manages her case load with ease and is very engaging with her foster families. Chyane is an excellent communicator with her coworkers and always maintains a positive attitude. Chyane is very detailed oriented and takes pride in top notch quality with her case load. Chyane assist with recruitment efforts as she understands the constant need for foster families. We are both thankful and blessed that Chyane is a part of our team and we're glad to have her back "home"!

**Indiana: Katelyn Baldwin,**  
Licensing Specialist,  
Crawfordsville Office

Katelyn is a great advocate for youth and foster parents here at BFS! She is very knowledgeable about policy surrounding child advocacy and child welfare regulations. Katelyn is always very detail oriented and timely in her work, which allows her to provide quality case management. Katey has dealt with difficult situations with great critical thinking skills, communication, and support, which has allowed her to navigate challenges with ease. Katey is always friendly and supportive of her fellow co-workers and we are lucky to have Katey as a part of Team Crawfordsville!

**Ohio: Sadie Telleson,**  
Support Specialist,  
New Carlisle Office

Sadie has been with the IT department for a short time but has been very helpful. Sadie has stepped into multiple roles in the department to assist with multiple projects. She has a positive attitude and enjoys helping the staff. Sadie also likes to joke around and have fun while she works. She has added a fun dynamic to the department and her coworkers enjoy working with her.

