



Benchmark Family Services Therapeutic Foster Care



BACK TO SCHOOL

This can be a busy, and sometimes stressful, time of year, but we've shared some tips to make the transition back to school easier for everyone!

Don't forget to stay up to date on your training hours as well; be sure to view our calendar on our website so you don't miss any upcoming training sessions!

[Visit Our Website](#)

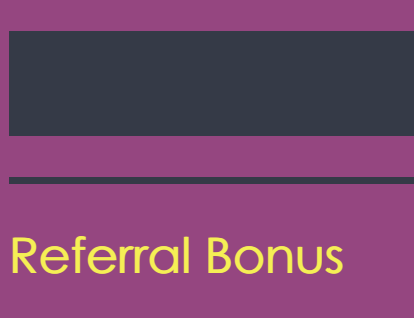
Mark your Calendar!

Virtual Training

Our virtual training sessions are live webinars and count toward your face-to-face hours for the year. We have compiled all virtual training sessions into one calendar, so [click here](#) to easily find and sign up for the courses that are most convenient for you!

August Virtual Training

8/20/22: De-Escalation



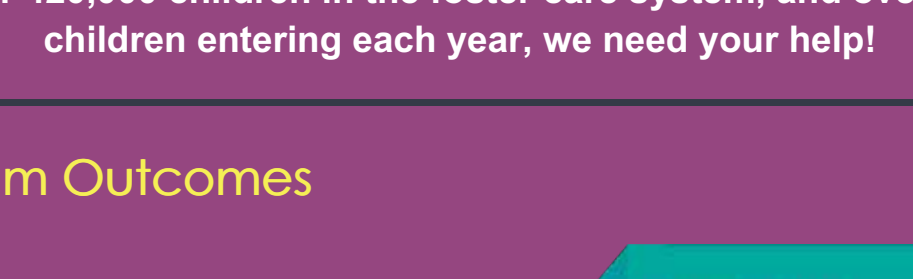
Don't miss out on any of your office's upcoming training sessions or events! Just click the link below to go to our website and find your local office!

[View Calendar](#)

Referral Bonus

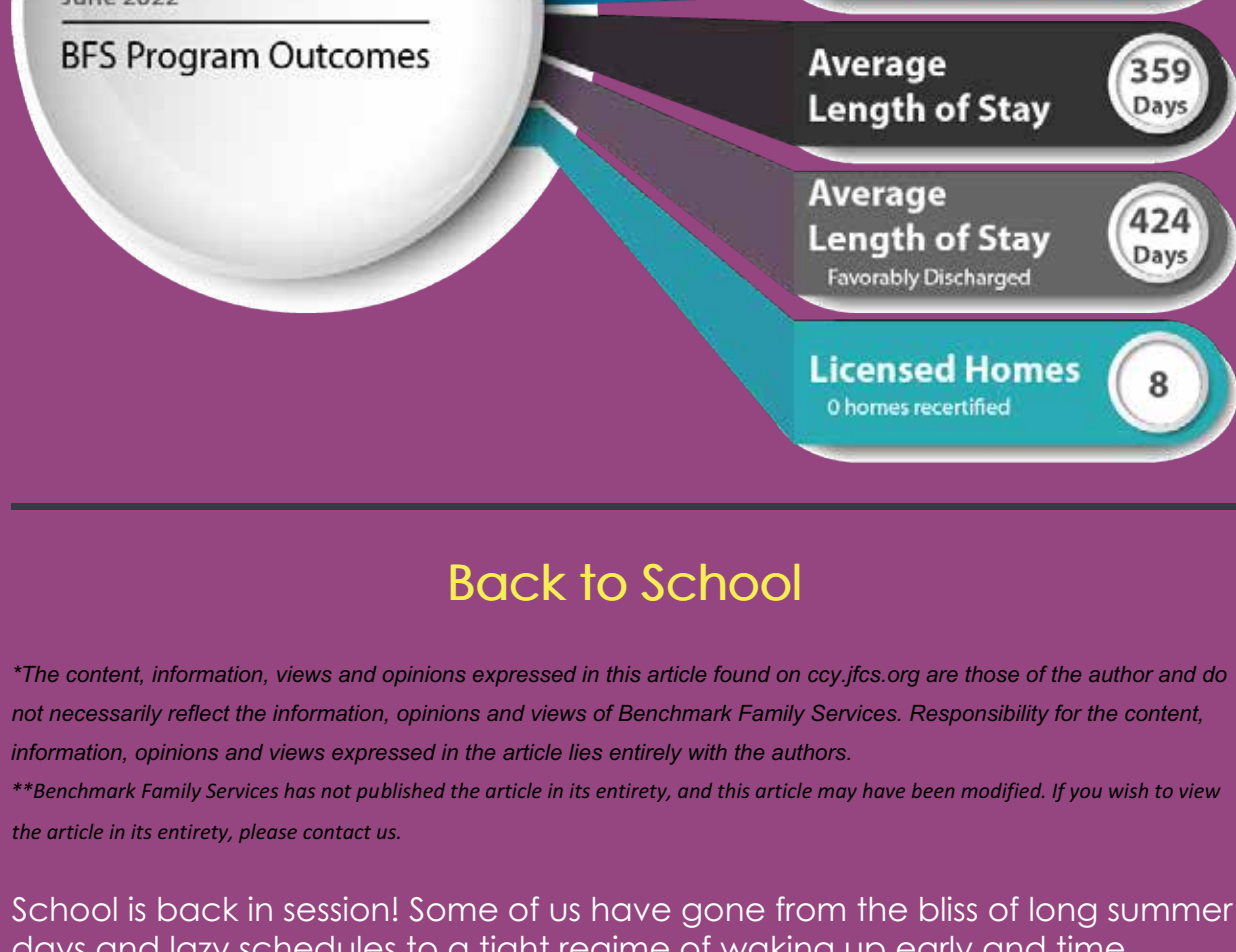
Every month, our agency receives more referrals for children in foster care than we have beds to accommodate. With your help, we will be able to provide more of these children with a good home and a bed to rest their head. Please help spread the word and get your friends and family involved in our mission. 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!

**TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



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

Program Outcomes



Back to School

**The content, information, views and opinions expressed in this article found on ccj.fjcs.org are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the information, opinions and views of Benchmark Family Services. Responsibility for the content, information, opinions and views expressed in the article lies entirely with the authors.*

***Benchmark Family Services has not published the article in its entirety, and this article may have been modified. If you wish to view the article in its entirety, please contact us.*

School is back in session! Some of us have gone from the bliss of long summer days and lazy schedules to a tight regime of waking up early and time managed to the minute. Others may be relieved that the kids are finally back in school and the hectic, irregular schedule of summer is over.

Whatever your situation may be, it's important for parents and children who experience a long stretch of time away from each other; often 8 to 10 hours a day, to reconnect when you come home.

The combination of empty tanks and the fact that we missed one another often results in parents and kids butting heads and words. Show downs with our offspring, big emotions, or unwanted behaviors are often a result of not taking a little time to reconnect with one another at the conclusion of our work and school day.

Tip #1

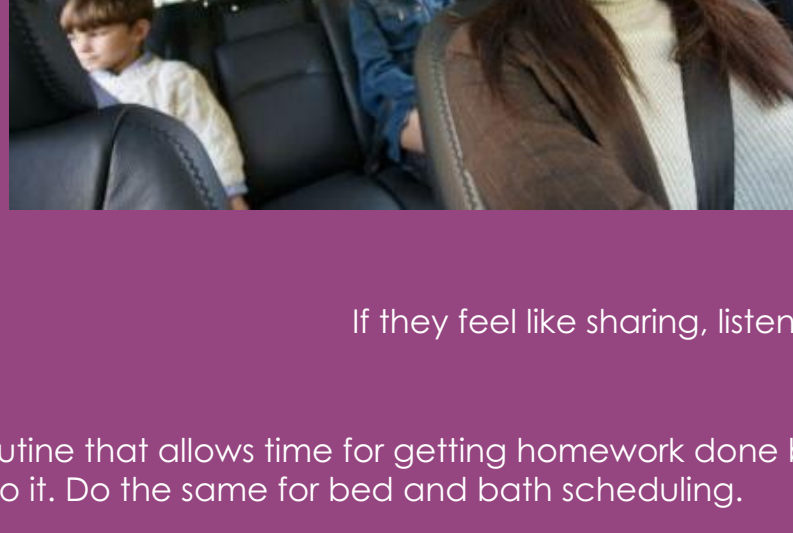
Tell your kids that you missed them.

Tip #2

Try to avoid the "task master" list of what you need them to do when you get home, (they just executed a long school day)—let some time pass.

Tip #3

Give them time in the car to be quiet, listen to their favorite radio station, or to day dream.



Tip #4

If they feel like sharing, listen with intention.

Tip #5

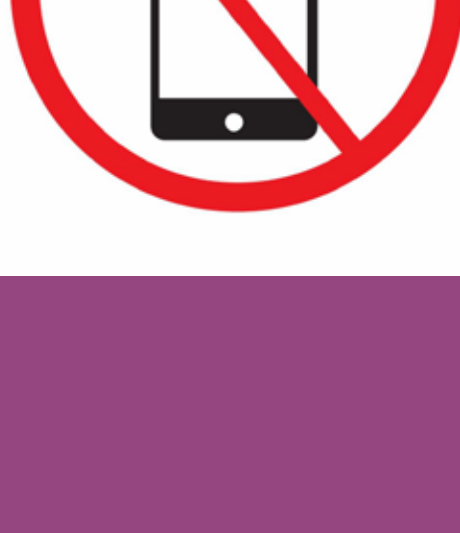
Establish a routine that allows time for getting homework done before or after dinner; stick to it. Do the same for bed and bath scheduling.

Tip #6

Eat together! At least one foster parent should be present to share the day during dinner. Allowing time for a meal and for real face time helps to soothe the separation of the day.

Tip #7

Put all cellphones away; meals and technology don't mix.



Tip #8

Practice being grateful.

Tip #9

Don't forget story time; it is often when our kids share the most.



Employee of the Month

Kentucky: JaNeane Roark,
Home Compliance Specialist,
Corbin Office

JaNeane is the home compliance specialist, in our Corbin office. The past month our licensing department has taken on a lot of changes and shifts in caseloads and responsibilities. Jan has really taken this time to step out of her traditional role and take over a lot of additional tasks that she does not typically have to handle. She has not hesitated to lend a hand where it has been needed, and has spent a good amount of time ensuring that our newest licensing staff member is well trained and knowledgeable in her duties. Jan has offered suggestions and quality feedback to ensure the licensing department here at Corbin continues to run smoothly, and has put in many additional hours to make sure we remain on top of our deadlines and reach our goals.

Indiana: Kayla DeLaTorre,
Therapeutic Support Specialist,
Fort Wayne Office

Kayla has shown great leadership from day one. She is always willing to step up and ask what more she can do to assist those she works beside her and above. Kayla shows great leadership in the way she trains her homes (parents) and acclimates new homes and placements to the Benchmark culture. Kayla has shown great growth in taking on new roles and learning new steps and participating in new trainings including: Licensing roles and SAFE training to help the FTW office. Kayla is always going the extra mile, for example always offering an extra hand to Kirby with waiting individuals in the lobby for fingerprint appointments prior to Jessica. Kayla has shown initiative by taking care of her assigned children and homes yet following the chain of command and confirming with Kirby prior to completing protocol regarding a critical incident. Kayla has been challenged with difficult children and has shown time after time she is more than capable of handling her caseload and more. Kayla we are forever grateful for you and your hard work and dedication to the Fort Wayne office!

