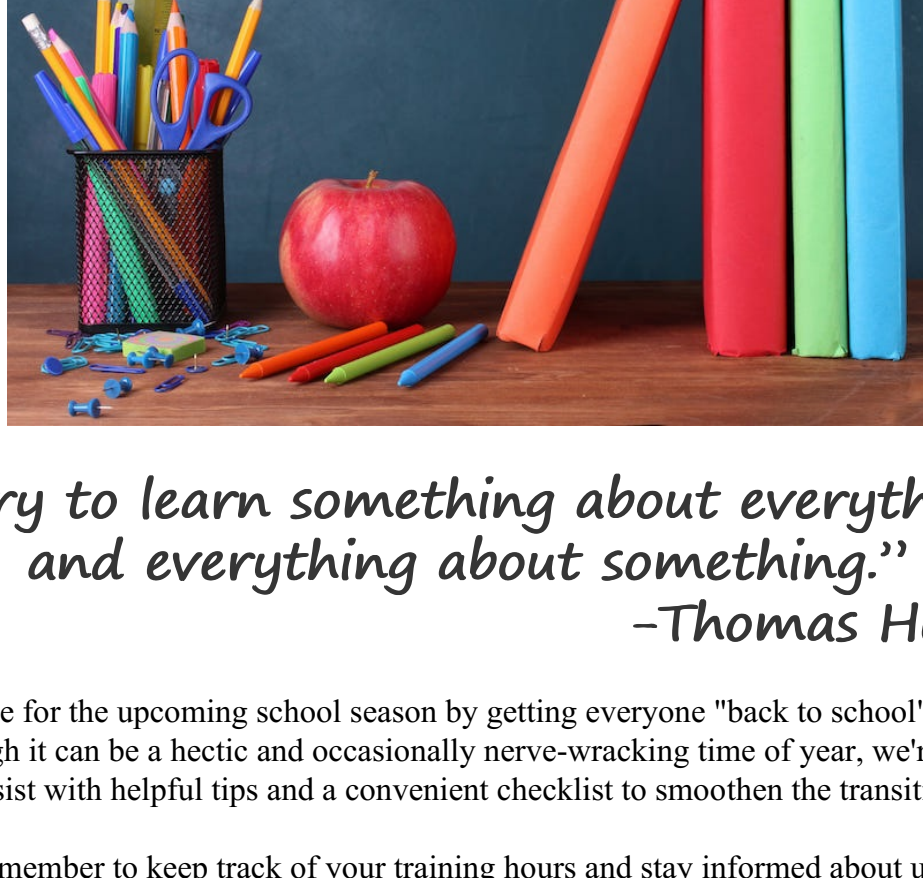




Back to School!



“Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.”
 –Thomas Huxley

Prepare for the upcoming school season by getting everyone "back to school" ready! Although it can be a hectic and occasionally nerve-wracking time of year, we're here to assist with helpful tips and a convenient checklist to smoothen the transition.

Also, remember to keep track of your training hours and stay informed about upcoming training sessions by checking our website's calendar. Ensuring you stay up to date will guarantee you don't miss any important training opportunities!

[Visit Our Website](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

MYTH

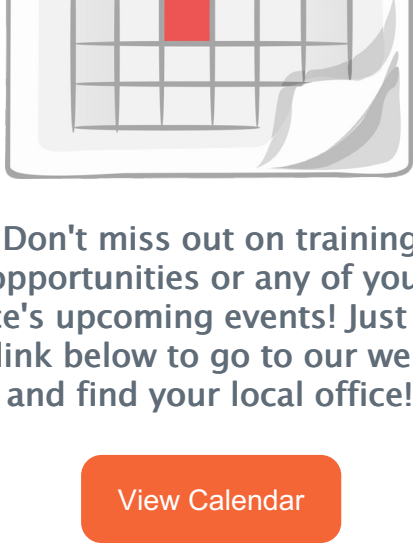
Foster care is only for couples.

FACT

Foster care is open to individuals and couples alike. Single individuals who meet the requirements can be excellent foster parents and provide a stable and caring environment for a child.

BenchmarkFamilyServices.org

Mark Your 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!

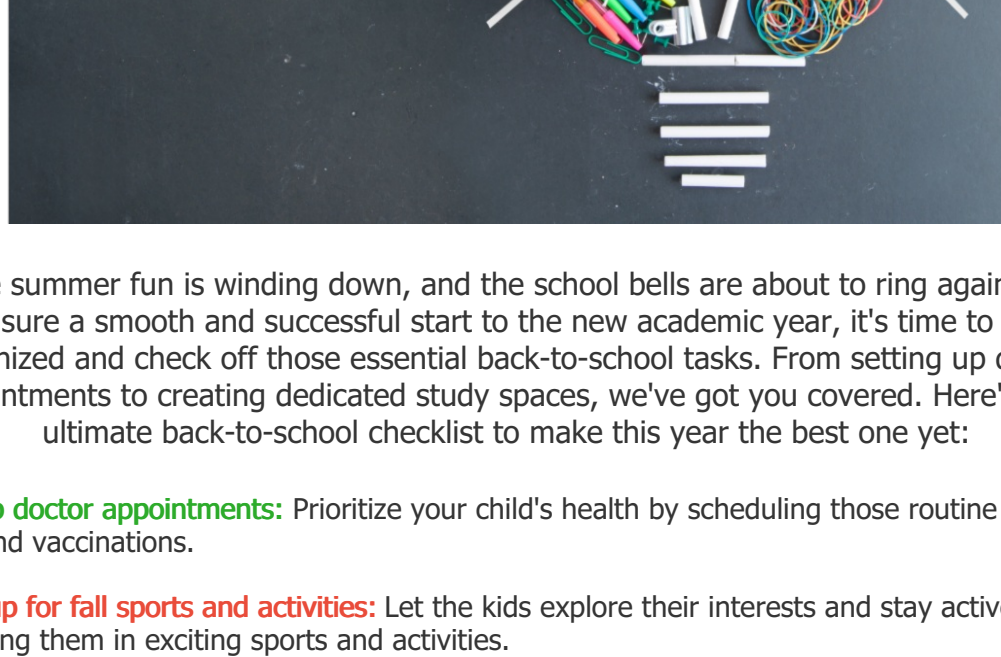
Don't miss out on training opportunities or any of your office's upcoming events! Just click the link below to go to our website and find your local office!

August
 (Click training for registration page)

- 8/10: [Bullying and Foster Care](#)
- 8/19: [De-Escalation](#)
- 8/22: [ADHD](#)

[View Calendar](#)

Gear Up for a Successful School Year: Your Ultimate Back-to-School Checklist!



The summer fun is winding down, and the school bells are about to ring again. To ensure a smooth and successful start to the new academic year, it's time to get organized and check off those essential back-to-school tasks. From setting up doctor appointments to creating dedicated study spaces, we've got you covered. Here's your ultimate back-to-school checklist to make this year the best one yet:

Set up doctor appointments: Prioritize your child's health by scheduling those routine check-ups and vaccinations.

Sign up for fall sports and activities: Let the kids explore their interests and stay active by enrolling them in exciting sports and activities.

Clean out the freezer and stock up on fast breakfasts: Mornings can get busy, so prepare for them by having quick and nutritious breakfast options readily available.

Start meal prepping for busy nights: Stay ahead of the game by preparing delicious meals in advance for those hectic evenings.

Sort through last year's clothes and determine what you need to buy: Make sure the kids are dressed for success by identifying their clothing needs for the upcoming year.

Go over the school calendar and add it to your family calendar: Keep everyone on track by syncing the school events with your home schedule.

Shop for school clothes – consider waiting for fall to buy winter clothes: Embrace the changing seasons and save money by strategically timing your clothing purchases.

Schedule kids' haircuts: Fresh haircuts can boost confidence and give the kids a great start to the school year.

Transition to an earlier bedtime and wake-up time: Help the children adjust to the school routine by gradually shifting their sleep schedule.

Start setting up carpools if necessary: Organize transportation with other parents to simplify the daily commute.

Create, clean, and organize study spaces: Designate quiet and productive study areas to encourage focus and concentration.

Create an organized drop zone for backpacks, shoes, and outerwear: Say goodbye to morning chaos by establishing a designated spot for school essentials.

Shop for school supplies: Get ahead of the game by ensuring the kids have all the necessary tools for a successful academic journey.

Make a grocery list of needed food and supplies for kids' lunches: Plan nutritious and delicious lunches to keep them energized throughout the day.

Create a Backpack Station and a place for school papers: Keep school-related items organized and accessible to avoid last-minute scrambles.

Discuss school year expectations: Set goals and discuss expectations with the kids, fostering a positive attitude towards the new school year.

Wash and organize new clothes: Get those new outfits ready for the first day of school.

Don't stress if you've planned vacations at the end of summer and find it challenging to prepare for the upcoming school year. Remember, it's not the end of the world.

You can easily tackle these tasks during the first week of school. So, enjoy your vacations worry-free, and when the time comes, you'll still have plenty of opportunities to get everything in order for a successful start to the academic year.

Program Outcomes



Don't Forget Supplies!

KINDER ACADEMY

SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

KIDDIE SET - A

- #2 Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Erasers
- Pencil Case
- Glue Sticks
- Crayons
- Washable Markers

KIDDIE SET - B

- Watercolor Paints (6 ct)
- Pair of Scissors (blunt-tip)
- Pocket Folders
- Lunchbox & Backpack
- Construction Paper
- Wide-ruled Notebook
- Hand Sanitizer
- Box of Tissues

HIGH SCHOOL

GENERAL SUPPLIES

SET A

- Wire Bound Weekly Planner
- #2 & Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pens: Red, Blue, Black
- 12 inch Ruler
- T1 Calculator
- Pocket Folders
- 3-Ring Binder
- Spiral Notebooks
- Sticky Notes

SET B

- Highlighters
- Markers
- Ruled Loose Leaf 3 Hole Paper
- Tabbed Dividers
- Foreign Language Dictionary
- USB Flash Drives
- Backpack
- Lunchbox
- Book Covers

Supplies may vary. Check with your teachers for specifics.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Supplies List for Grades 1-2

KIDDIE SET A

- No. 2 pencils
- Erasers
- Sharpeners
- Zippered pencil bag
- Spiral notebooks (wide-lined)

KIDDIE SET B

- Dry erase markers
- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Highlighters
- Pocket folders

KIDDIE SET C

- Ruler-12"
- Colored pencil
- Indexed cards (ruled)
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper (assorted)

KIDDIE SET D

- Blunt-tipped scissors
- Ballpoint pens
- Backpack & Lunchbox
- Hand sanitizer
- Box of tissues

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Supplies List for Grades 3-5

KIDDIE SET A

- No. 2 pencils
- Erasers & Sharpeners
- 1-inch 3-ring binder
- 3-hole punch
- Pocket folders without fastener

KIDDIE SET B

- Dry erase markers
- Washable markers
- Crayons & Highlighters
- Subject dividers
- Scissors (blunt tip)

KIDDIE SET C

- Protractor & Ruler-12"
- colored pencil
- Ballpoint pens (Blue/Black)
- glue sticks
- Zippered pencil bag

KIDDIE SET D

- Spiral notebooks
- Wide ruled loose leaf paper
- Index cards
- Backpack & Lunchbox
- Tissues & Hand sanitizer

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

1

- No. 2 Pencils
- Pencil pouch
- Erasers & Sharpeners
- Ruler & Protractor
- Scissors
- Personal calendar
- Pocket folders
- 3-ring binder
- 3-hole punch
- Index cards
- Subject dividers
- Ballpoint pens
- White-out

MIDDLE SCHOOL

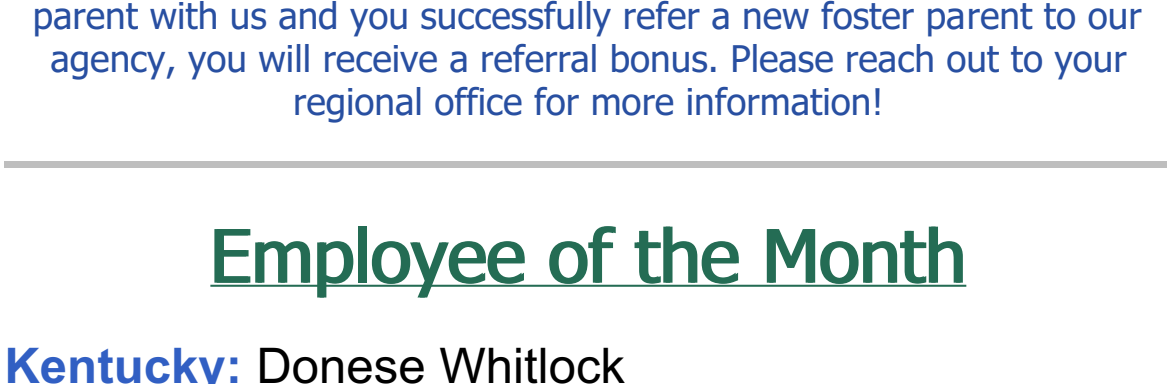
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

2

- Highlighters
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Graphing calculator
- Wide ruled loose-leaf paper
- Graph paper
- Drawing paper
- Watercolor paints
- Spiral notebooks
- Stapler
- Locker accessories
- Lunchbox
- Backpack

Referral Bonus Opportunity

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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: Donese Whitlock
 Therapeutic Support Specialist,
 Owensboro Office

Donese consistently maintains an optimistic outlook, even in challenging circumstances. She approaches every situation with professionalism and patience, always ensuring that she completes her work promptly. Moreover, she demonstrates exceptional skill in managing after-hours crisis situations, ensuring that all necessary tasks are taken care of. Donese excels at building rapport and strong connections with the youth she works with, and she goes above and beyond to support her foster parents. We truly value and appreciate her hard work, dedication, and proactive approach!

Indiana: Ju'Wanda Kirk
 Home Compliance Specialist,
 Merrillville/Gary Office

Juwanda's exceptional qualities have earned her a well-deserved nomination for Employee of the Month. Her consistent positive attitude, outstanding customer service, and heartfelt connections with our foster families in Merrillville have made her stand out. In November, Juwanda will be celebrating her two-year anniversary with Benchmark Family Services, marking a significant milestone in her dedicated journey with us.

