

October 2024



Foster Care  
and Adoption  
Newsletter

## Children's Bureau is now All For Kids

Our new name embraces how all of us -- partners, families, and communities -- work together to create a world where every child is safe to grow. Welcome to All For Kids!

### Meet Cynthia & Jacob



Cynthia decided to foster children a year after her husband passed. She learned about All For Kids through another resource parent who had a positive foster parent experience. Cynthia loved infants and decided that fostering was a way to help those in need. She says that AFK has been a supportive and caring organization from the beginning. Here's her story about being a resource parent to many babies.

#### **What inspired you to become a resource parent and how has it changed your life?**

I decided to become a resource parent because I love infants. I was a nun in the 1970's and worked with teenage girls having babies. This gave me my first experience working with social services. I also was in nursing school at the time, but my desire was to work in the nursery. I volunteered instead, working as a "grandmother" at UCLA, holding and feeding babies.

#### **What was the process of becoming a resource parent and how long did it take?**

After going through the orientation and the pre-approval trainings, I was asked to participate in the in-home interview process, which also included the in-home safety walk-through. The entire process took approximately two to three months.

#### **How have you helped the children transition back to their families? What was that like for you?**

I am fostering my seventeenth baby now, since I became a resource parent. It has been wonderful to have more than half of my babies be adopted and several return to their families.

My son, Jacob, has acted as a foster father to these babies. He is a big part of this journey and I couldn't do it without him. We support each other through each transition, when a baby joins our family and then leaves with a part of our hearts. His encouragement and support means everything to me.

All For Kids extends its heartfelt gratitude to Cynthia and Jacob for their unwavering dedication to these little ones!

## California Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis Does Not Affect All For Kids

### All For Kids Remains Insured

Many Foster Family Agencies are currently in crisis due to their insurance being canceled. All For Kids has a stable, ongoing insurance company and wishes to reassure your family that our agency is in compliance with all regulations and that our insurance is intact. All For Kids services to you and your family will continue uninterrupted.



PARTNERS WITH CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THIS CRISIS](#)

## Meet Our Staff - Marissa Pina, M.S.W.

My first day at All For Kids was April 23rd, 2003. I came from another Foster Care Agency along with my co-workers.

When I started at this agency, I was just finishing my Master's in Social Work from Cal State Long Beach and looking for a flexible job that allowed me to finish my internship and schoolwork.

I enjoy my job, besides all the paperwork. I get satisfaction from seeing the children bloom with excellent families I have worked with and see how they advocate for them. I am glad I can support our families and help them navigate raising the children that need loving families.



## October is Bully Prevention Month



Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

**An Imbalance of Power:** Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.

**Repetition:** Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Below are helpful resources about bullying and ways to combat it.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

[HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT BULLYING](#)

[BULLYING AND TRAUMA](#)

## Halloween Safety

### Halloween Safety

Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to the safety of those little trick-or-treaters. Fortunately, there are lots of easy things parents and kids can do to stay safe on the spookiest of holidays.



#### Hard Facts about Halloween Safety

On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

#### Top Tips for Halloween Safety

1. Carry glow sticks or flashlights, use reflective tape or stickers on costumes and bags, and wear light colors to help kids see and be seen by drivers.
2. Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating.
3. Slow down and be alert! Kids are excited on Halloween and may dart into the street. Turn on headlights early in the day to spot kids from further away.
4. Remind kids to cross the street at corners or crosswalks.
5. When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls. Choose face paint over masks when possible. Masks can limit children's vision.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS](#)

## October is Fire Safety Month



There are many ways to improve fire safety around your property, such as maintaining defensible space. This is the practice of keeping flammable materials away from your home.

Below are some tips for maintaining defensible space:

- Remove debris.
- Regularly clean gutters and roofs of leaves, branches, and other flammable materials.
- Trim trees: Remove low-hanging branches and branches that extend within 10 feet of chimneys or stovepipes.
- Space out shrubs: Space shrubs at least 15 feet apart.
- Use hardscape: Use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of combustible mulch or bark.
- Relocate firewood: Keep firewood and lumber away from your home.

- Check local ordinances: Local ordinances may be stricter than state requirements.
- Check all fire and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are working.

All For Kids families must notify their All For Kids social worker immediately if they are evacuated from their home due to fire or any other emergency situation.

## RED CROSS FLYER REGARDING FIRE PREVENTION

## Foster Parent College - Free Online Training



Free online training is offered to all approved Resource Parents through **Foster Parent College**. Access this site and determine which courses are most applicable to your family.

Please email [beatrizcruz@allforkids.org](mailto:beatrizcruz@allforkids.org) for assistance.

[CLICK HERE FOR FOSTER PARENT COLLEGE](#)

## Siblings Deserve a Safe, Loving, & Permanent Family

### There is an Urgent Need for Resource Families to Help Children in Foster Care

Foster and adoptive resource parents are needed for children entering foster care on a daily basis. In Los Angeles County alone, the foster care population exceeds 25,000 children with 200 of those foster children waiting for an adoptive family. Many of these children are siblings in need of families who are willing and able to keep them together. In fact, All For Kids turns away at least 10 sibling sets *weekly* due to lack of families.

“Being a resource parent lets you help someone in their time of need. You’re the support system for a child and for their parents,” says Brittany, who with her husband Jeremy, foster-adopted two sibling children in addition to their three biological children.

All For Kids offers trainings and welcomes every individual to become a resource for children. For questions and/or to get started, call **800-730-3933** or [click here](#) to complete a quick inquiry form.

Let's Grow, Together

Foster or Foster-to-Adopt  
800.730.3933 | [allforkids.org](http://allforkids.org)

all for kids  
PARTNERING WITH CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES  
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[VISIT THE FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



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