




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION

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October 13, 2011

TO: Regional Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
DCFS Area Administrators
Administrator, Licensed Resources
Area Administrators, Licensed Resources
Regional Implementation Coordinators
Children's Administration Staff

FROM: Becky Smith, Acting Director 
Field Operations, Children's Administration

SUBJECT: Improvement to Caregiver Training

Children's Administration, in collaboration with FPAWS (Foster Parent Association of Washington State), identified priorities for improvements to caregiver training based on the fundamental belief that caregivers provide better care when they have adequate and sufficient training related to the specific needs of foster children. As part of this effort, CA has updated the Foster Parent Training policy (Practice and Procedures Manual, chapter 4000 – section 45121).

The policy changes impact licensed caregivers only and take effect **October 15th, 2011**. Changes include the following new requirements:

- Required 36 hour Parenting Plus course within first 2 years of licensing
- Required 3 hour So You Have Your First Placement course within first year of licensing
- Training hours decreased to 30 hours for second licensing period
- Training hours decreased to 24 hours for third and all subsequent licensing periods
- A total of 12 training hours can be rolled over into next licensing period
- Increased use of foster parent and tribal co-trainers
- Addition of SAY/PAY training to Parenting Plus

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact Randy Roberts, DLR Quality Assurance Manager at rmra300@dshs.wa.gov.