

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

March 17, 2000

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-40-00

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES  
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS  
ALL COUNTY FOSTER CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS  
CALIFORNIA STATE FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION  
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
ALL FOSTER CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTORS OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING LIAISONS

SUBJECT: SELF-ESTEEM WITH RESPECT TO FOSTER CHILDREN

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 16001.5  
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 1529.2

Pursuant to the implementation of Senate Bill 916 (Chapter 542, Statutes of 1997) the California Department of Social Services is responsible for annually distributing information declaring the importance of promoting self-esteem in foster children.

Research shows that building a child's self-esteem increases that child's ability to achieve in school, work, and life activities, while conversely decreasing delinquent behavior, including violent acts, teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as dropping out of school. Promoting self-esteem encourages the child to be responsible for making moral decisions and enhances the child's capability to meet his/her own needs.

A child's developmental needs are met in part through the building of self-esteem. A positive self-esteem is generally accompanied by a feeling of security, along with emotional and physical growth. Part of our goal in the foster care home, agency, or institution is to provide children with a safe, nurturing environment where they can heal, grow and develop.

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Thus, as stated in the Health and Safety Code section 1529.2, all foster parents are required to be trained in positive discipline and the importance of self-esteem as part of their 12 hours of preplacement training and their eight hours of postplacement annual training.

Should you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Joyce Lewis, Manager of the Recruitment, Training and Retention Unit at (916) 445-7001.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By  
Sylvia Pizzini on 3/17/00***

SYLVIA PIZZINI  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA