



Imagination Station

The Westra Supervised Visitation Station held a Valentine's Art Contest for the month of February. Children ages 3-17 entered their best artwork for a chance to win art related prizes. 6 winners were chosen and gifted a prize fitting for their age group.



At Westra, we wanted to find something fun for the children to do and make them feel included. The children smile when they enter the facility and see their artwork on display for everyone to see.



Indoor Fun

The boys living in Kern Bridges STRTP's had another exciting month with activities. Participating in daily activities is our mission and passion when it comes to our program. When we do activities, our boys experience unique fun that exposes them to real life adventures to bring reality to the eyeballs and feelings of our children. We believe learning exists when children are exposed to an experience to which they can connect. We want to give our boys the opportunity to go beyond the boundaries of the STRTP and have first-hand experiences. Indoor activities can be one of the best ways to keep children's minds healthy and active. First, it offers a lot more than just entertainment. Doing activities, of any kind grants numerous health and mind benefits. It keeps your mind young, active, and entertained at the same time. Second, activity helps us to practice essential cognitive skills and enhance the parts of the brain responsible for complex thought and memory formation. Creative activities help the brain retain and build cognitive associations. One of many activities the boys did last month was making Banana Split Ice Cream and Chocolate Sundays. Our staff showed the boys how to google "Making ice cream" and purchased all the ingredients. The ice cream turned out to be very delicious. As one of our boys put it, "This ice cream is better than Baskin-Robbins!" Another activity the boys participated in last month was Art Therapy. Art therapy is a technique rooted in the idea that creative expression can foster healing and mental well-being. Individuals living with mental illness often express themselves in drawings and other artworks, which leads many to explore the use of art as a healing strategy. The pictures our boys drew were very creative, supportive, and expressive. "A picture is worth a thousand words" is an adage in multiple languages meaning that complex and sometimes multiple ideas can be conveyed by a single still image, which conveys its meaning or essence more effectively than a mere verbal description."

TRAINING



Upcoming Trainings

April 8, 9:00-11:00 am

“Prudent Parent Standard, Child Development”

with Catherine S.

RSVP to csanterre@kernbridges.com

CPR/1st Aid

CPR and First Aid trainings are on an as needed basis at this time. Contact your KBYH Social Worker if you need to renew your certification.

ISFC Training & Support Group

Trainings are open to any Kern County approved ISFC Resource Family.

RSVP to marina@kernbridges.com

“Self-Care and Secondary Trauma”

March 21, 2023

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



ISFC Family Spotlight:

Adelina Rodriguez is currently a Resource Parent with the Kern County Department of Human Services. She is a certified ISFC and TFCO home which requires many training hours and an exceptional level of skill when working with children with complex needs. Adelina has been helping teenagers with complex trauma for 7 years and is providing the three current teenagers in her home with amazing stability and support. She is a wonderful asset to the fostering community and we have appreciated the opportunity to partner with her through our ISFC program.



Happy Birthday



Child Birthdays

3/1 Easton 3 years

Resource Parent Birthdays

3/1 Sheila Drummer

3/6 David Noble

3/24 Anita Caudillo

Resource Parent Anniversaries

Michelle Trujillo: 2 Years

Edward & Gerado Matthew-Vega: 3 Years

Everardo & Teresa Viramontes: 7 Years

David & Timi Mongold: 13 Years

KBYH Staff Birthdays

3/8 Marco Richard

3/10 Gabriela Gonzalez

3/25 Catherine Santerre

3/30 Tayler Thomason

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Ronny Copeland 8 years

Martha Pantoja-Gonzalez 5 years

Raymond Brown 3 years

Misty Thomas-Roberts 1 year



Happy Anniversary!



Erica Maldonado

Erica graduated from CSUB in 2016 with her Bachelor's in Child Adolescent and Family Studies and in 2018 with her Master's in Social Work. After graduation, she worked with the Department of Human Services as a case worker for 4 years in permanent placement, family reunification and the family maintenance unit. Her last year at the county was as a CFTM facilitator. For the past year and a half, she worked at Clinica Sierra Vista as a substance abuse therapist. When she's not working, she enjoys watching crime documentaries, reading, spending time with her two dogs, husband, and family. She is looking forward to the newest family member, Baby Maldonado, joining them in September 2023!

Erica will be an Adoptions Social Worker completing Family Evaluations for our RFA contract.

Welcome Erica!

