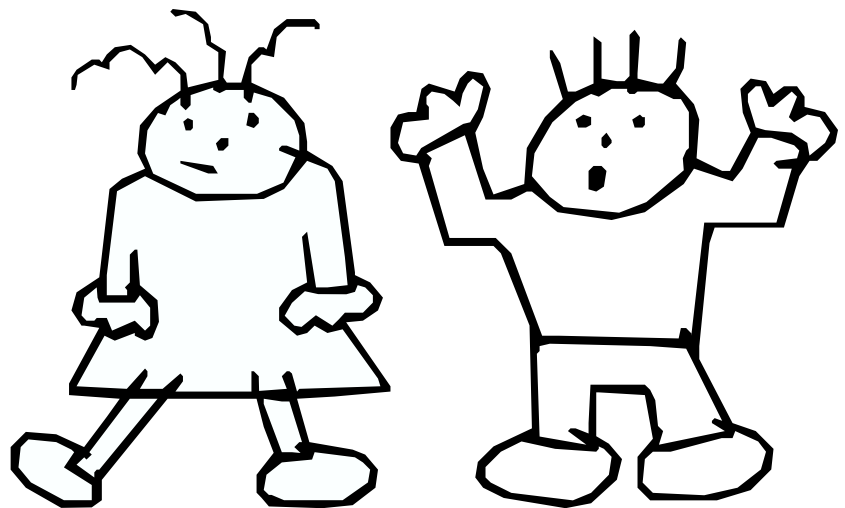


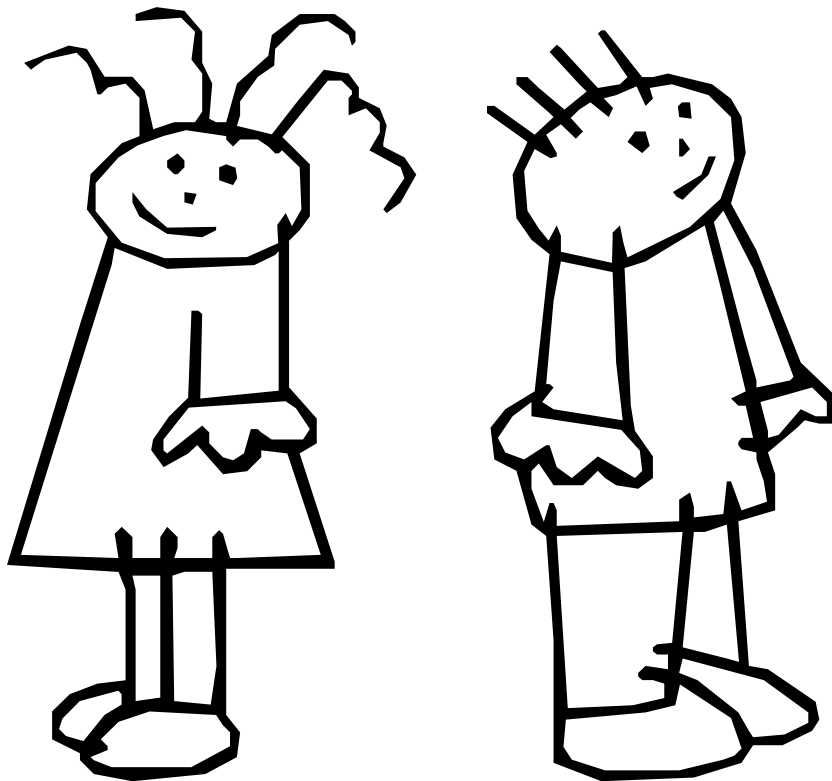
What's Going On?

A Coloring
Booklet for
Children in
Foster Care



All families have problems. Sometimes those problems mean children cannot live at home. They may have to live with a relative or in a foster home for a while.

If you live in a foster home, this booklet is for you. It tells you about the court and about foster care. It also tells you about the people who will help you and your family.



This booklet talks about serious things. You may want someone to read it with you. That's OK. You can read this booklet out loud, write in it, color in it, and talk to someone else about it - like your Mom or your sister or your Social Worker or your teacher. That's OK, too. This is your booklet.

First, let's find out about you!

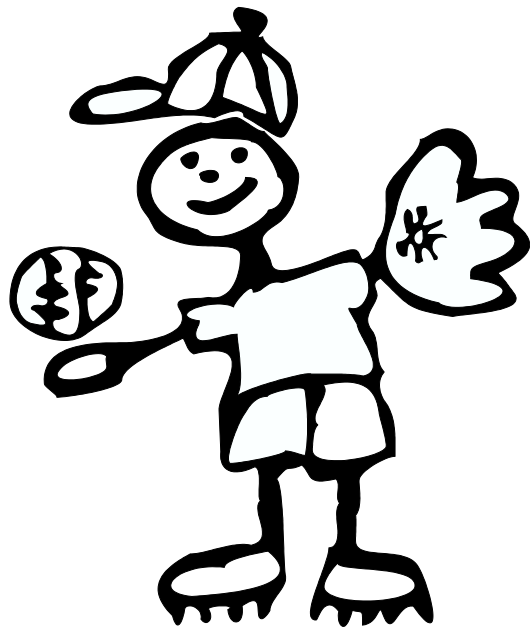
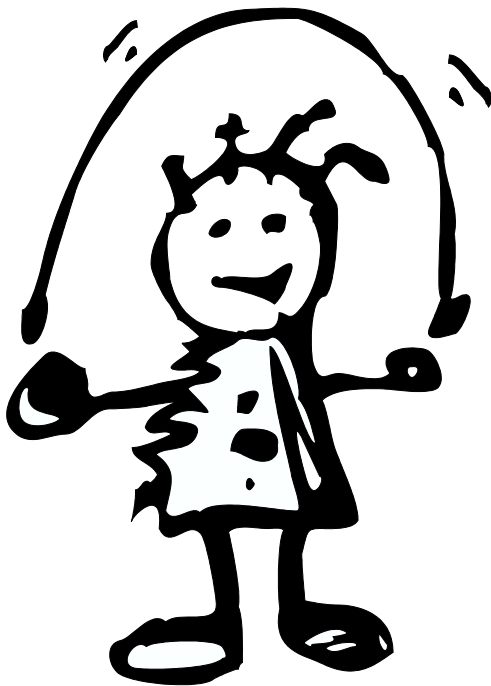
What is your name? _____

How old are you? _____

What school do you go to? _____

What are some of your favorite subjects?

What are some of your favorite things to do?



What are your Mom's and Dad's names?

What are your brothers' or sisters' names?

Who else is in your family?

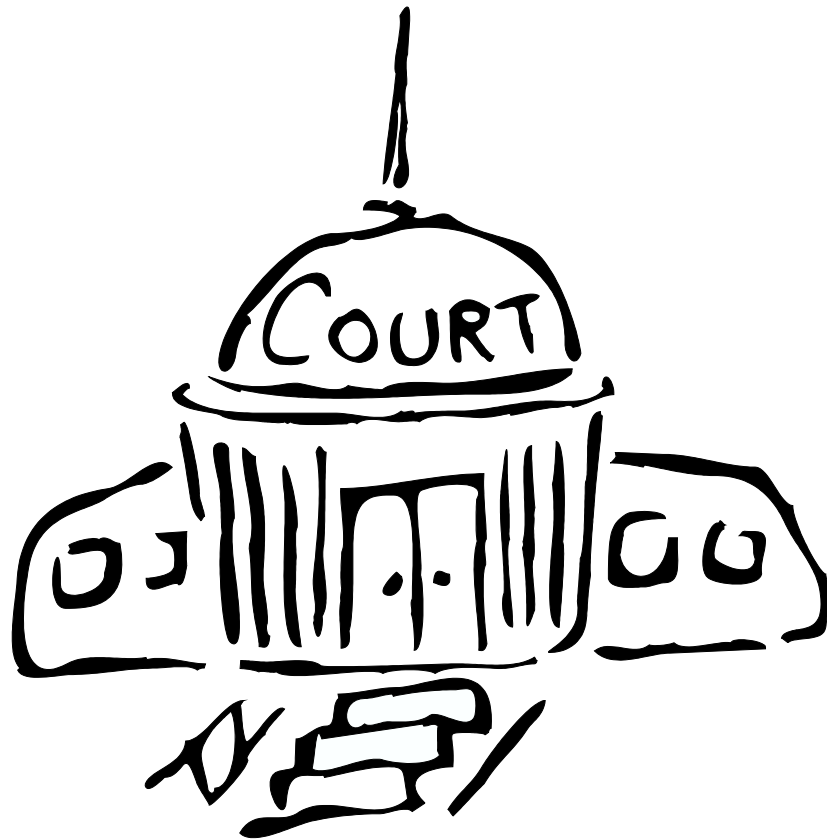
Do you have any pets? What are their names?

Can you draw a picture of your family?



GOING TO COURT

Lots of different families have to go to court. Some have a lot of children, and some have only one or two. But all these families have problems. At court, the judge and other people try to help your family work on its problems.



The JUDGE is in charge of the court. The Judge listens to people talk about what is happening with your family. The Judge decides how to make sure you will be safe. And the Judge decides how to make sure your family gets the help they need.

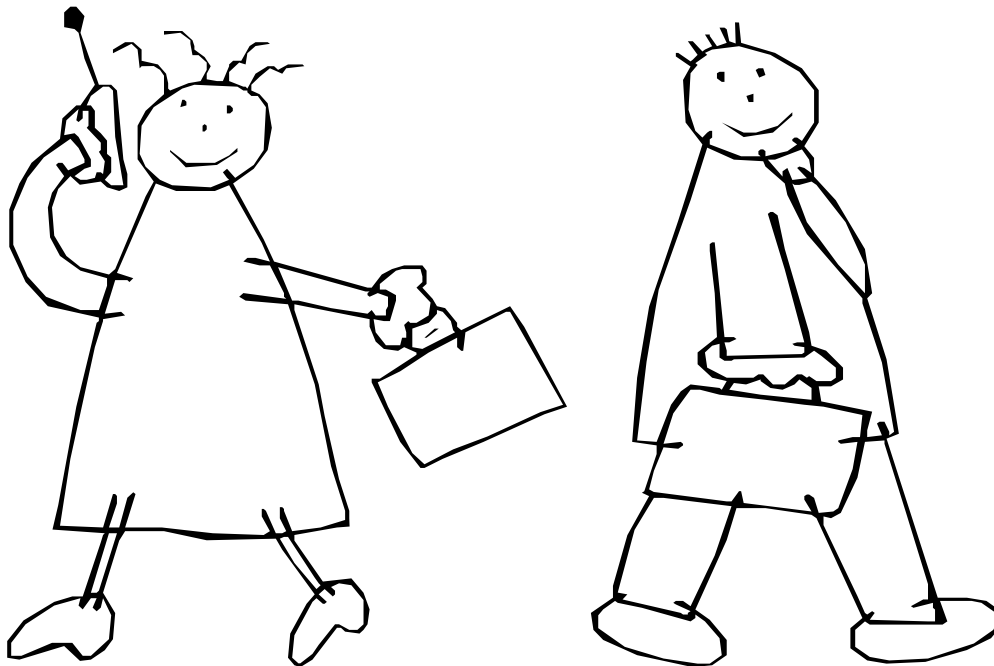
PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP

There are a lot of people who can help you right now. Did you know that you have your very own lawyer? You might also have a *CASA*, and you have a Social Worker.

Your lawyer is called a *GAL*. Your *GAL* is there to help you. Your *GAL* will probably want to talk to you alone. That way your *GAL* can get to know you and tell the Judge about you.

What is your *GAL*'s name?

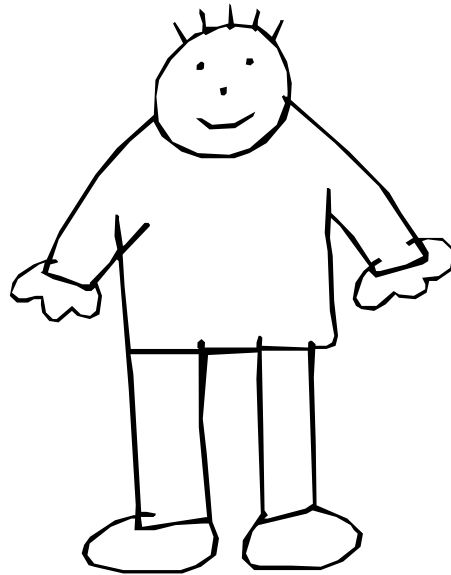
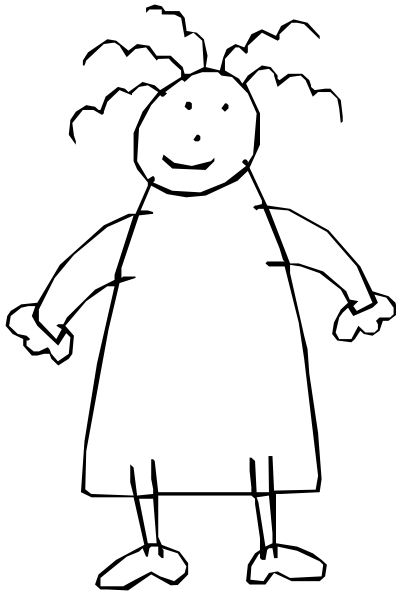
What is your *GAL*'s phone number?



You might also have a *CASA*. Your *CASA* is someone who will talk to you and your family. Your *CASA* will let the Judge know what is best for you.

What is your *CASA*'s name?

What is your *CASA*'s phone number?

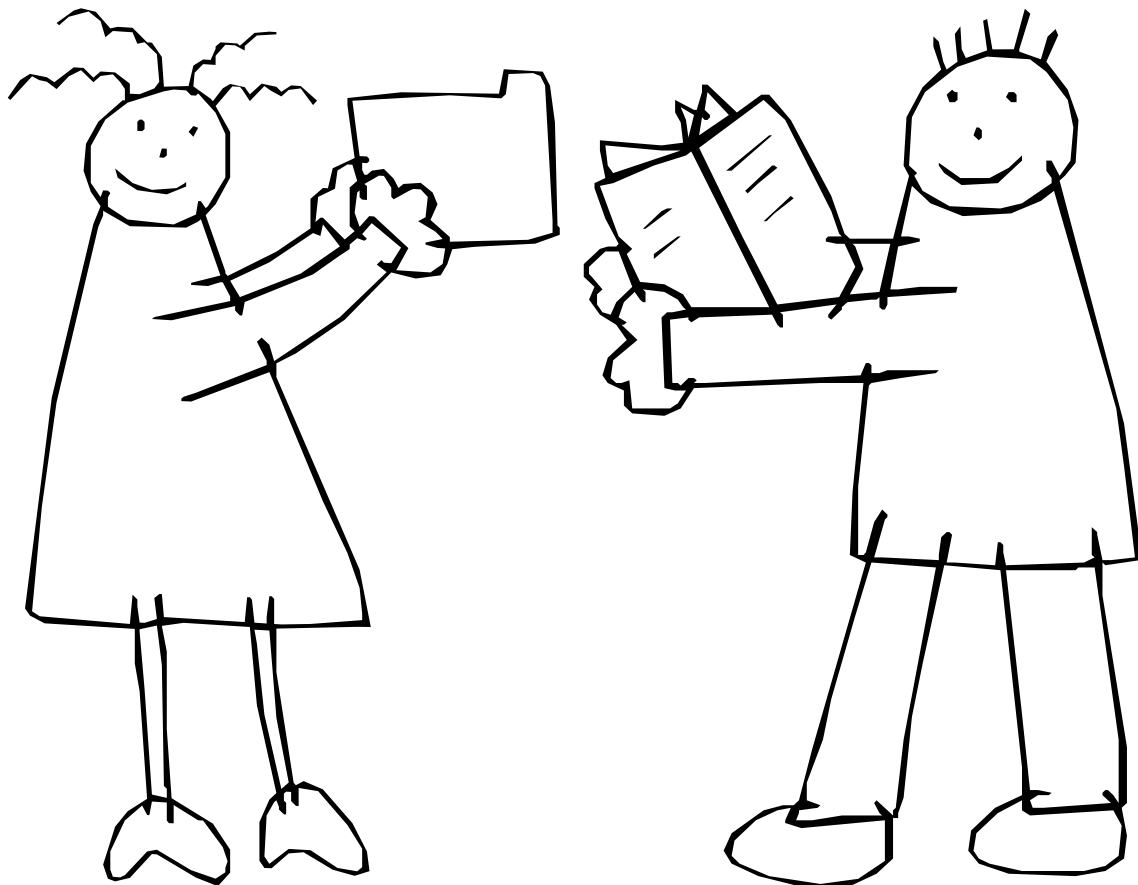


Are there some things you would like to talk to your *GAL* or your *CASA* about? You can write them down here.

YOUR SOCIAL WORKER

Your Social Worker is someone else who will help you. Your Social Worker will spend time with you and with your parents. Your Social Worker will help your family.

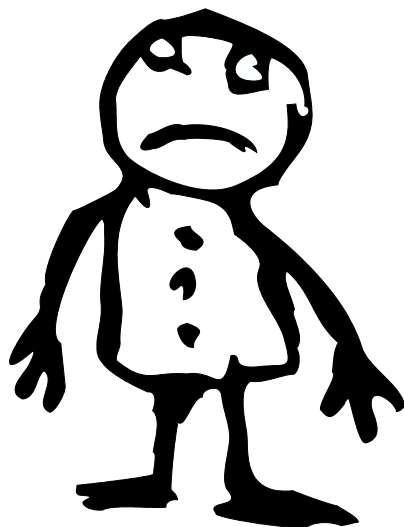
Your Social Worker is a good person to talk to if you have questions. You can also talk to your Social Worker about how you are feeling.



What is your Social Worker's name?

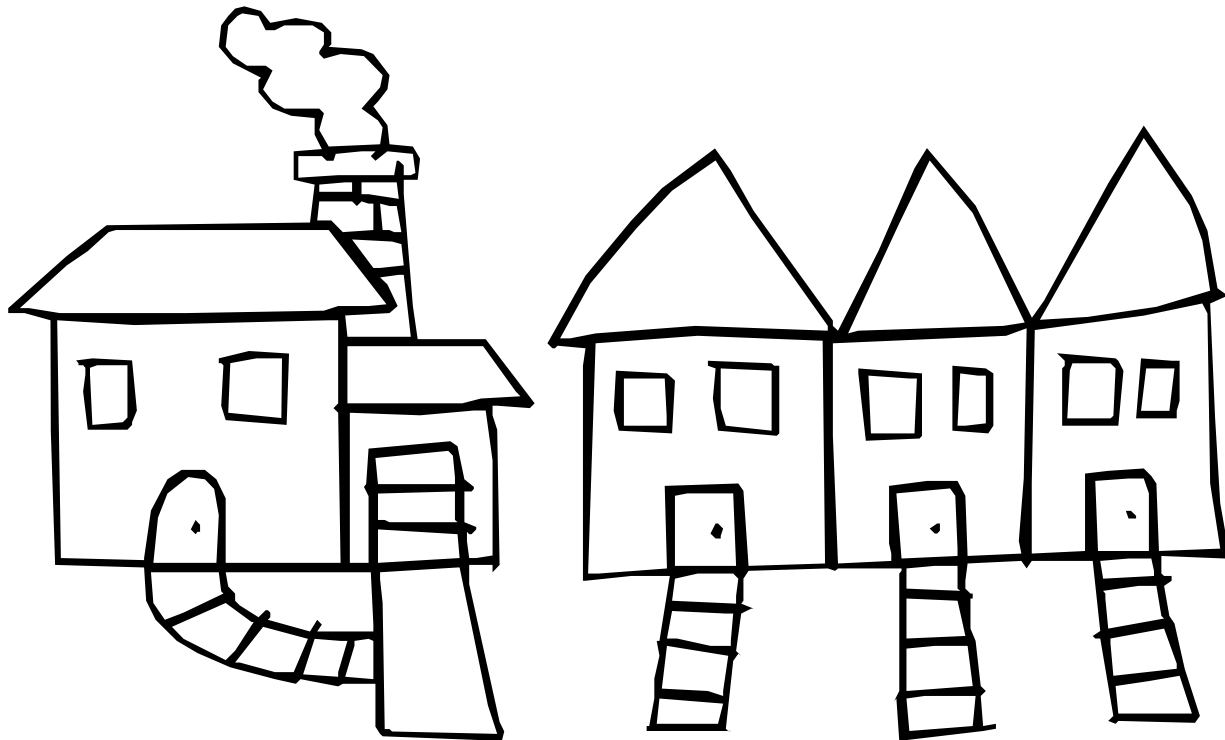
What is your Social Worker's phone number?

Are there some things you would like to talk to your Social Worker about?



WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO A FOSTER HOME?

Your Social Worker, your GAL, and the Judge all think that it would be better for you to live with a foster family for a while. You will stay there until the judge and others decide it is safe for you to go home again.



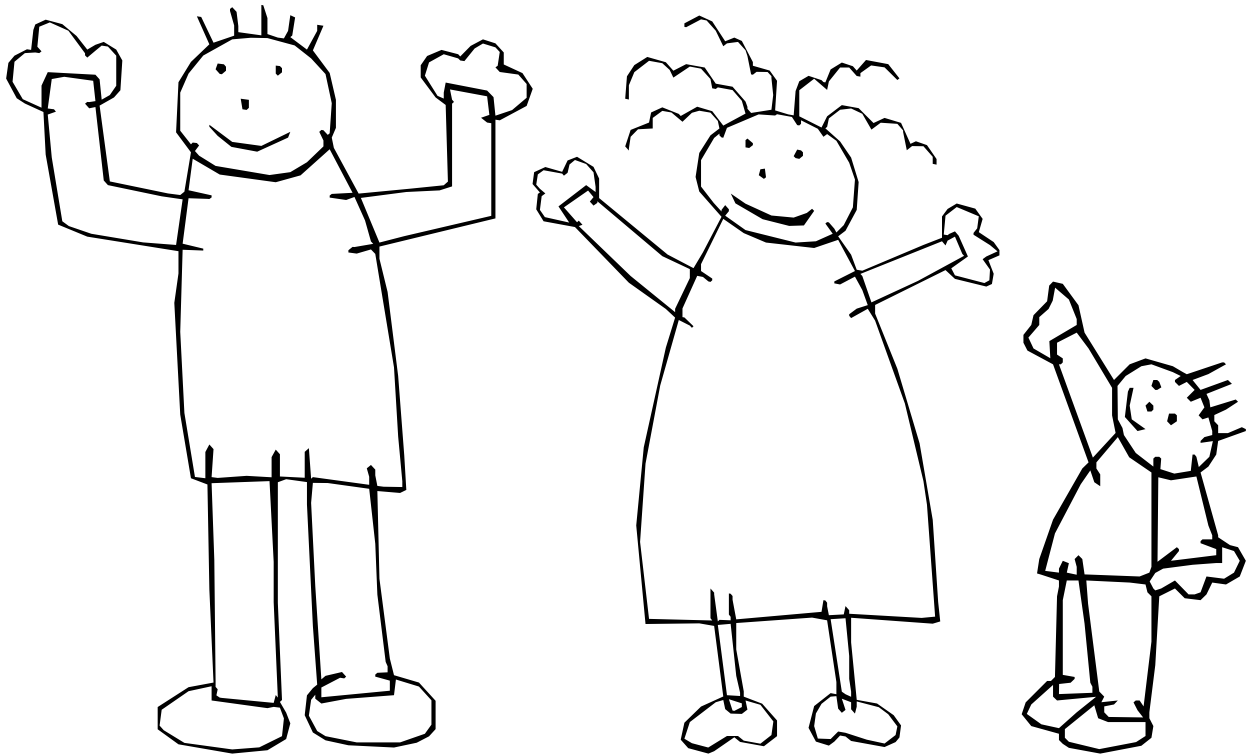
What is your address at your foster home?

What is your phone number?

YOUR FOSTER PARENTS

Your foster parents are there to help you. Remember, it wasn't their idea for you to have to live away from your home right now. But they are happy you live with them. They want to make sure you are safe. They will take care of you until you can go back home.

What are your foster parents' names?

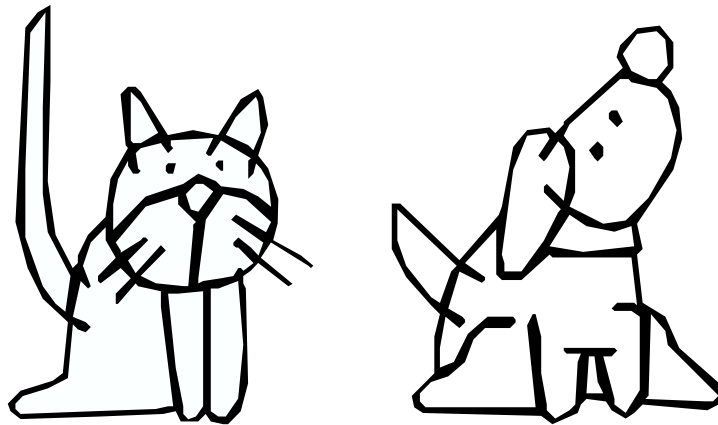


GETTING USED TO YOUR FOSTER HOME

It might take you a little while to get used to all the new things in your foster home. Maybe your foster parents have rules you are not used to. Maybe there are other children living in your foster home with you.

What other children live in your foster home?

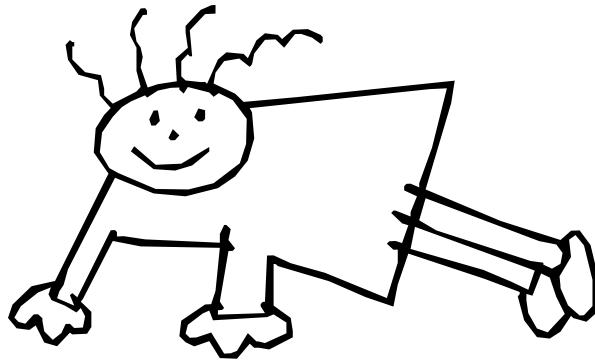
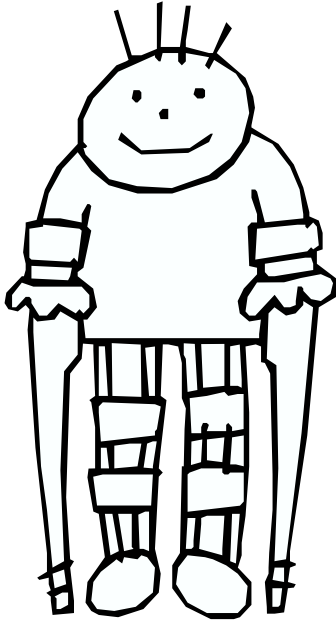
Are there any pets? What are their names?



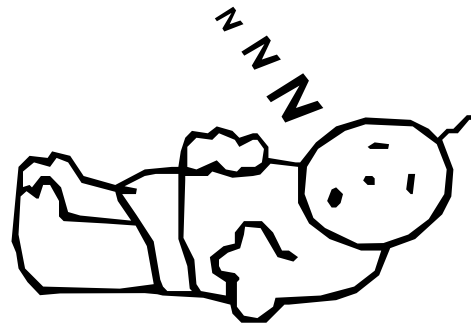
You may feel scared or shy about going to live in a new place with a foster family. It's OK to feel scared or shy or sad. If anyone in your foster home does something to you that you don't like, you should talk to your Social Worker right away about how you feel.

WHAT ABOUT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

Your Social Worker will try to make sure your brothers and sisters live in the same foster home as you. But sometimes they may have to live in a different place.



If your brothers or sisters don't live with you, you probably miss them a lot. Ask your Social Worker if you can visit them or call them.

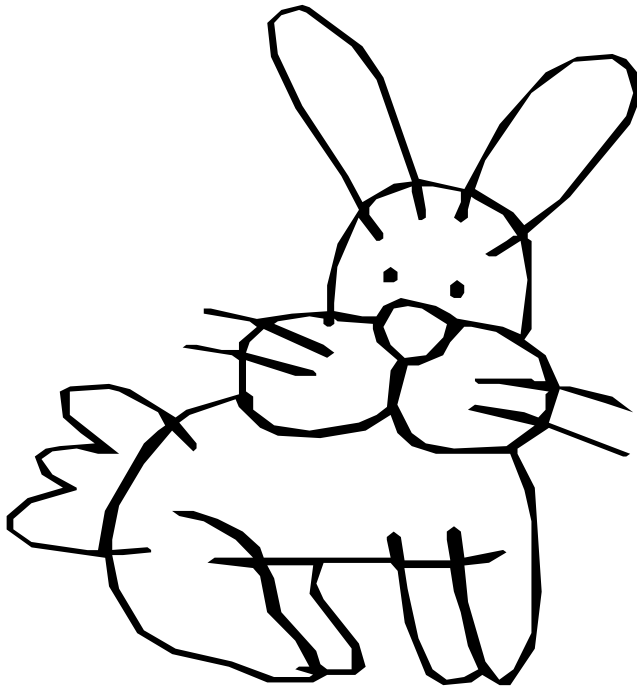


What is the phone number where your brothers or sisters live?

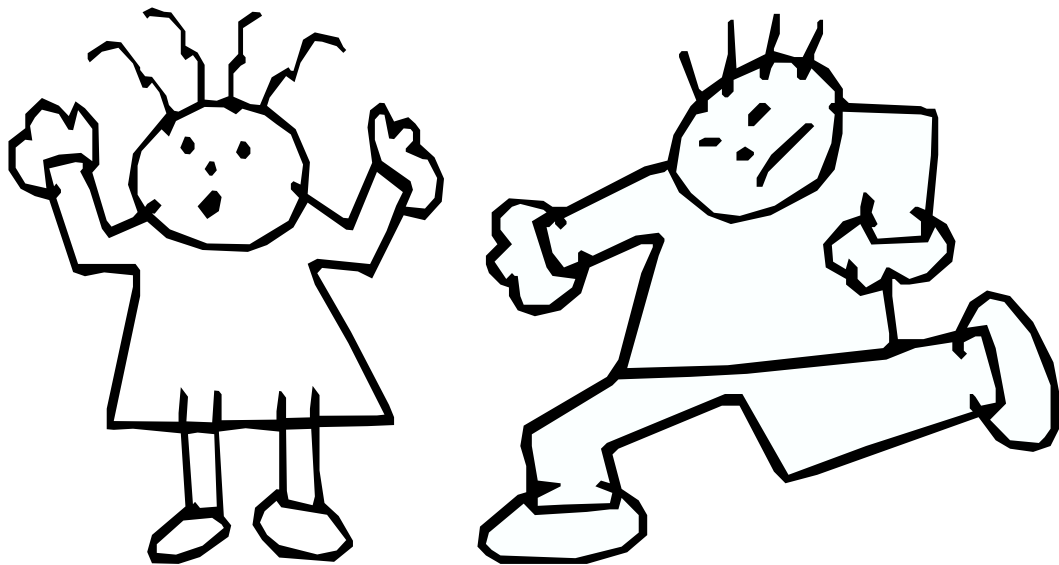
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY MOM AND DAD?

You probably really miss your Mom and Dad. And they miss you, too. Probably the hardest thing about being in foster care is that you can't see your Mom or Dad whenever you want to.

Ask your Social Worker if you can call your Mom or Dad when you miss them. Or maybe you could write them a letter. If it's OK for you to write them, what is the address where you could write?



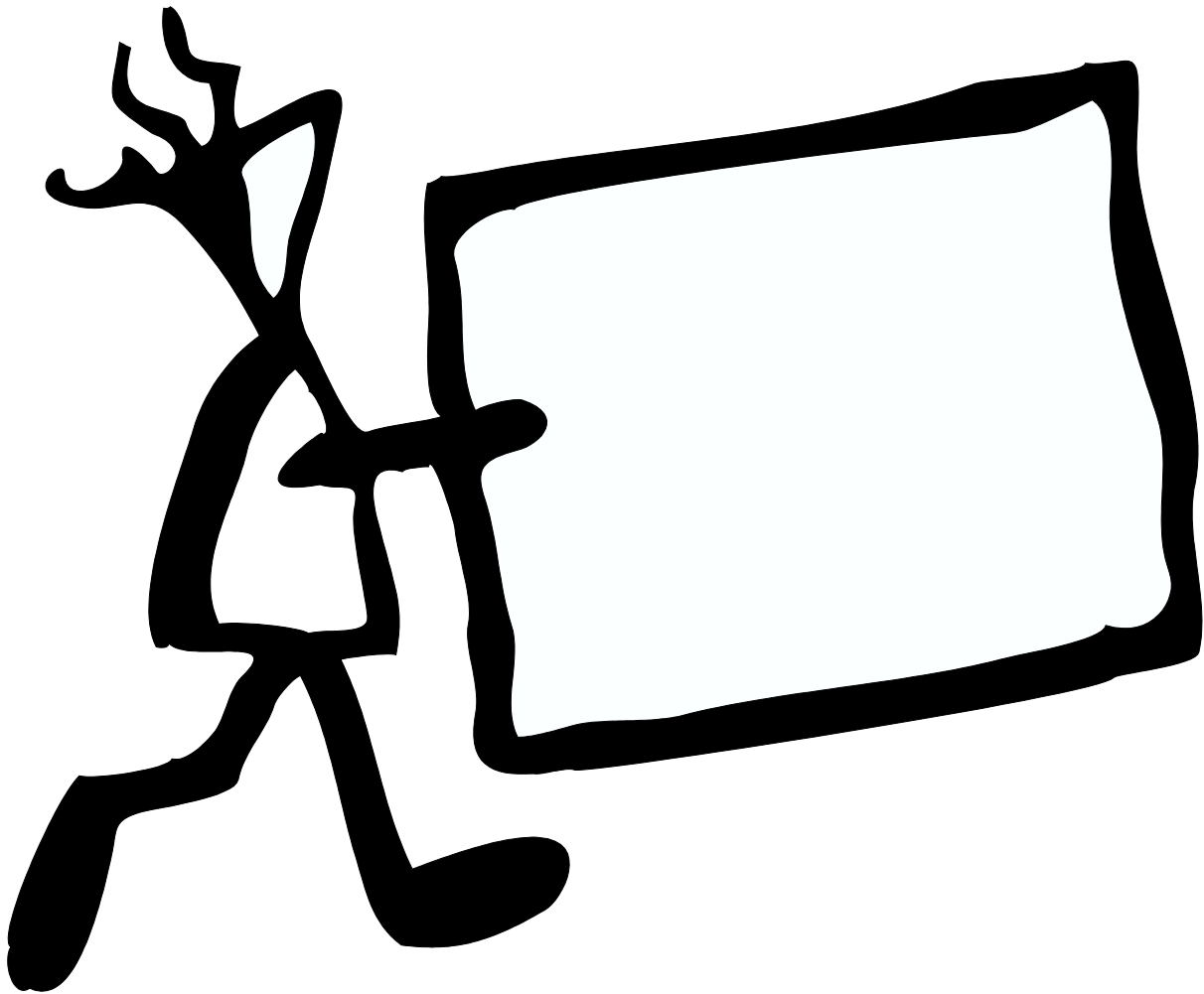
Going to live in a foster home and being apart from your family probably makes you feel mixed up. Maybe you feel sad or scared, or maybe you feel confused. Maybe you even feel really mad.



Remember:

- This is NOT YOUR FAULT. It is NEVER a child's fault when children cannot live at home.
- If you have questions or need to talk to someone, talk to your foster parents, your Social Worker, or your GAL. They want to help you.
- Is there anyone else you could talk to? Write their name and phone number here.

This Is My Booklet:



**PREPARED BY SHAENING AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AND
THE NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT'S COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TASK FORCE**

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