

LSF Children and Family Services in NorCal: We Play We Learn Pre-K Graduation

We Play We Learn hosted our Pre-K graduation on June 9th at our school. We had 17 graduates this year; the biggest one thus far. The kids wore their caps and gowns and performed a cute song for their parents. Then they sat down and the teachers called their names one at a time and read aloud each child's answer to these two questions: 1. What is your favorite thing about preschool? and 2. What do you want to be when you grow up?. Then each student walked across to get their diploma and sat back down. Afterwards we celebrated with cupcakes for the graduates and cake for everyone else. It was great day!



LSF Children and Family Services in SoCal: Addition of Speech-Language Pathology Assistant



The Antelope Valley office not only provides early intervention but also speech services for our infants/toddlers. We are very excited to announce we are adding to our team with a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. Cheryl Saenz will provide in-home speech services for the Lancaster/Palmdale area. She has 20 years working with children with disabilities and eight years working specifically in the 0-3 age range. Cheryl was a contractor for Life Steps Foundation 2016-2019 but had to step away to focus on her family, we are excited to have her return! Her speech services are top-notch and she bonds well with our families and consumers. We are looking forward to watching her grow with Life Steps.

LSF Northern California Adult Services: Social Dynamics Summer Activities

At LSF Northern California Adult Services, our fun-filled summer Social Dynamics program activities are received with great anticipation by our clients and educators. We have been enjoying the summer weather by taking lots of walks together, enjoying the sunshine and the breeze that mother nature provides us, as well as taking in that vitamin D.

We are also enjoying doing summer activities together such as playing volleyball, badminton, and bingo, and of course our weekly Zumba. The Clients are also enjoying playing musical chairs. The anticipation of who will be the last person standing or sitting in this case, is very exciting. Who will win the prize?

Clients and educators also enjoy the weekly drive by of the ice cream truck. Here we have our client enjoying a banana split as his treat for the day. Other clients and educators join him in a scoop or milkshake of their choice. We always look forward to Wednesdays the day of the week that we may treat ourselves. We continue to have fun and educate our clients.

Happy summer to all!



LSF Central Coast Adult Services: Staff Member Training

LSF Central Coast Adult Service took the summer to provide training to all of our staff members. The training that was provided was Nonviolent Crisis Intervention. Each staff member received a certification upon completion of the training. Even though it is our staff members that completed the training, it really benefits our individuals and the way our staff members interact with them. Our staff now have the knowledge and skills to recognize, prevent, and manage any crisis behaviors using person-centered and trauma-informed responses, which consists of:

- Recognizing that the individual knows themselves best
- Considering the individual's life experiences
- Understanding that every individual is unique
- Valuing the individual's rights and dignity

This training established a common philosophy and framework of care, welfare, safety, and security benefiting our program site, staff, and the individuals we serve. We now have a better understanding of the individual's behavior, its risk level, and are able to provide an integrated experience between the staff members and individuals. In addition, we know how to use disengagement skills if needed due to this training.



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In the face of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation, many of the children and adults with developmental disabilities served by Life Steps Foundation are in need of essential items. We are working diligently to assist our individuals but need additional help. Donations of items or monetary contributions at this time is greatly appreciated. Please consider joining our Life Steps community with a donation. Visit www.lifesteps.org and click the “**Donate**” button today!

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