



Connections - Oct. 19, 2022



*Communities Connected for Kids attended an open house hosted by Cayuga Centers last week. Cayuga is one of CCKids' most recent child-placing agencies with whom we contract to recruit, train and license foster parents.*

## YMCA Just Made Placements Easier for Foster Care

**Stuart** - Communities Connected for Kids is proud to announce a new partnership with the Treasure Coast YMCA.

The organization has agreed to put foster families at the top of its waiting list for daycare spots, significantly reducing one of CCKids' greatest barriers to placing children into foster homes.

"One of the biggest challenges we have is finding spots for children," said Denise Natalizio, CCKids' Martin County Director. "The fact that we have a provider who will put children at the top of the waiting list is incredibly valuable."

Natalizio said that daycare - or delayed access to it - has been a barrier to placement. Foster parents who work and who would otherwise take in a young child may decline placement requests because of the difficulty in finding daycare.

The YMCA also has agreed to take children in foster care at a rate equal to those reimbursed by the Early Learning Coalition, which supplements childcare expenses for low-income families, as well as foster families.

In the past, any difference between ELC's reimbursement rate and tuition was incurred by the family. Those out-of-pocket costs were significantly reduced for all CCKids caregivers beginning July 1 of this year, after Senate Bill 7034 was signed into law implementing childcare subsidies for eligible families.

Caregivers who need childcare can email [rgriggs@ymcatreasurecoast.org](mailto:rgriggs@ymcatreasurecoast.org) or call (772) 204-3969 for more information.



## Telehealth Here to Stay - In This Month's *In the Clinic*

By Lisa McBride, RN, BSN  
CCKids Nurse Care Coordinator

October brings good news for members of the Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan: Members have access to telehealth services all day and all week, including nights and weekends, via phone or video. Best of all, these services are available from the comfort of home - or away on vacation - through [Teledoc](#) at no cost to you! You can schedule days and times that work for you and also have access for on-demand visits when your child is sick, day or night! You just have to set up an account by visiting [Sunshinehealth.com](http://Sunshinehealth.com) and clicking "Benefits and Services". Follow the instructions from there, and you'll be set.

Medical issues available through [Teledoc](#) include pink eye, ear infections, respiratory infections, rashes, skin conditions, sinus problems, allergies, colds, Flu and fevers.

But not every medical issue should be handled remotely. If you have chest pain, shortness of breath, broken bones, poisoning, severe cuts, burns or bleeding that won't stop, GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

Not sure? The Sunshine Health Nurse Advice Line is available at 1 (855) 463-4100. Experienced nurses can help answer questions about health issues,

medications and whether you should go to an ER, urgent care or use [Teledoc](#). They can also help you locate the nearest provider.

## Halloween-Themed Campaign Scares Away Common Misconceptions About Fostering Teens

The idea of fostering or adopting a teenager can be overwhelming – some might say scary. Teens are big, they speak their minds and they are struggling to make their own space in the world.

But we at Communities Connected for Kids say those are all the reasons that make fostering a teen so much fun! Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) this October as we list the five reasons to consider opening your heart and your home to a teenager.

We'll also hear from people who know a think or two about teens - people in our community who have fostered or adopted them and wouldn't change a thing!



**COMMUNITIES CONNECTED FOR KIDS**

In Coordination with Guardians for New Futures & the Angel Tree Project



**Toy  
Drive**

**Be a Collection Site!**

**You collect the toys, we pick them up**

We're seeking companies, churches and social groups to coordinate individual toy drives for children in the foster care system.

**Pick Up:** The week of  
December 4

**(772) 528-0362**