



2014

ADOPTIVE FAMILY EDUCATION SERIES

DOMESTIC Adoption Program



BETHANY[®]
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

REQUIRED WORKSHOPS



Health Risks During Pregnancy and Their Effect on Infants and Children • 2.5 HOURS

Even if you may be bringing home a “healthy” child, there are many unknowns related to your child’s health and genetic dispositions. Like any child, he or she may develop certain conditions, diseases, or disabilities that can affect his or her growth and development, including those that were determined through the health and habits of birthparents. This workshop will include an informative presentation by a health professional regarding potential health concerns and disabilities that children may be predisposed to as infants or later in life.

How Adoption Impacts the Circle: Adoptee, Adoptive Family, and Birthfamily • 4 HOURS

Adoption doesn’t end with finalization day. It begins before the child is born and continues on throughout his or her life. Adoption impacts adoptive parents and birthparents long before birth and long after as well. This workshop focuses on understanding the impact of grief and loss on all individuals in the adoption circle. You will have the opportunity to meet birthparents, hear adoption stories, share personal experiences, ask questions, and learn more about openness in adoption. This workshop will help you anticipate and think through your family’s lifelong relationship with your child’s birthfamily.

RECOMMENDED READING: *Because I Loved You: Understanding a Birthmother’s View of Open Adoption*, by P. Dischler (2006)

Can be purchased at www.patriciadischler.com

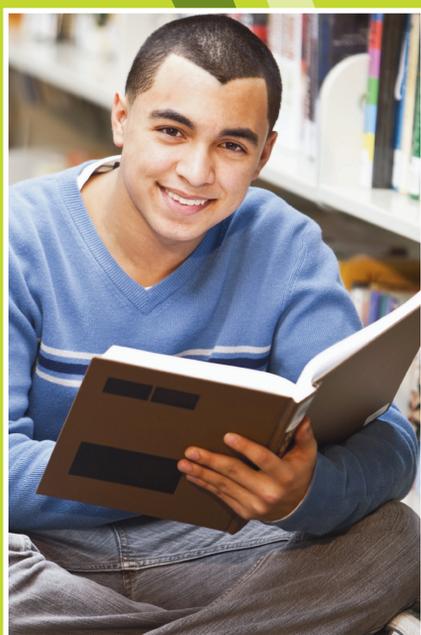


Infant Care, Bonding, and Attachment • 3 HOURS

Adoptive parents prepare themselves for parenting just as biological parents do through reading books, talking with family and friends, and using their own personal experiences with children. However, adoptive parents may not have gone through birthing classes to learn the basics of infant care. Attachment and bonding are core components of developing a relationship with your child. This workshop will provide you with practical information on infant care and the essentials of bonding and attachment with adopted children.

Lifebooks: A Tool in Developing Your Adopted Child’s Positive Self-Esteem and Identity • 2.5 HOURS

Adoption professionals have advocated the use of lifebooks as a means for helping adopted children understand their adoption and develop a positive identity and self-esteem. A lifebook is a place to honestly and sensitively record your child’s early life and history from his or her point of view. This workshop will provide ideas to help you begin and complete this important record of your child’s story, including some hands-on experience creating a page or two. This workshop is open to children ages 8 and up.



REQUIRED WORKSHOPS (continued)



Raising Adopted Children and Talking About Adoption with Your Children, Family, and Friends • 3 HOURS

Adopted children progress through development into adulthood as all children do; however, they must also advance through another layer of development—understanding and accepting their adoption. This workshop will offer information related to general child development and the continuum of development of adopted children. Strategies and suggestions for fostering a healthy development of your child, as well as how and when to talk to your child about adoption using age appropriate adoption language, will also be discussed. In addition, talking to your family and friends about adoption will be discussed and will include what to tell and not tell about your adoption experience, your child’s personal story, and developing a repertoire of responses to both curious and intrusive questions from others. **A panel of adoptive parents will join us to share their insight.**

PREREQUISITE READING: *Raising Adopted Children*, by Lois Ruskai Melina (1998)

RECOMMENDED READING: *When Friends Ask About Adoption: Question and Answer Guide for Non-Adoptive Parents and Other Caring Adults*, by Linda Bothun, (1987)

Unique Needs of the Adopted Child • 3 HOURS

Adopted children have unique needs based on the fact of being adopted. Although we do not want to view our children using only “adoption colored glasses,” we do need to be sensitive to their unique situation. This workshop will provide information on the basic needs of adopted children, including potential triggers to adoption issues. Other topics addressed include: understanding potential effects of abuse and neglect, cultural heritage, community resources, school needs, and advocating for your child.

Understanding Depression After Adoption • 2 HOURS

There are many normal feelings that surround the adoption of a child. Until recently, only some of those feelings were openly discussed. This workshop is designed to discuss depression after adoption and learn ways to cope with the emotions and feelings that sometimes accompany adoption. **A panel of adoptive parents will join us to share their insight.**

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Post-Adoption Blues: Overcoming the Unforeseen Challenges of Adoption*, by Karen J. Foli Ph.D. and John R. Thompson M.D. (2004)

OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS



Blended Families • 2 HOURS

Developed for families created through birth and adoption, this workshop explores the developmental stages of families and the impact of readjusting the family equilibrium to include another child or children. Strategies and resources for promoting the development of healthy sibling relationships will be explored. This workshop is also beneficial for families adopting a second time. **A panel of adoptive parents will join us to share their insight.** This workshop is open to children age 11 and older at the parents discretion. Simultaneously, a workshop for children ages 4-10 will participate in activities surrounding adding a sibling to their family.



Maintaining Healthy Hair and Skin for African American Children • 2 HOURS

Your child's appearance is important for their self-image. Understanding how to adequately care for hair and skin is crucial for encouraging your child's self-esteem. Many transracial adoptive parents do not know how to adequately care for their child's hair and skin needs. This workshop will include practical information, helpful techniques, demonstrations, useful products, and important tips. This workshop is taught by a professional hair stylist.

Transracial and Transcultural Needs in Adoption • 3 HOURS

Parenting across racial and cultural lines involves unique topics which are often not addressed in general parenting workshops. This workshop will help you better understand the dynamics of becoming a multicultural/racial family through adoption and how you can help your child grow up self-assured and culturally competent. **A panel of adoptive parents will also share their insight.**



Child and Infant Massage: A Tool for Bonding • 2 HOURS

Child and infant massage is a way to express love to your child, encourage the bonding process, and promote sensory integration. This workshop is designed to provide information on the reasons for and benefits of massage with your adopted child, how to be sensitive to your child's non-verbal signals, and an opportunity to hear about and practice techniques on soft dolls.

OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS (continued)

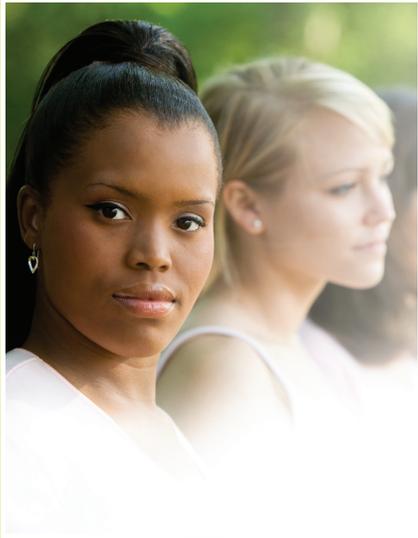


Insights From Adult Adoptees • 2 HOURS

Do you ever wonder what your child may be thinking or feeling? Do you wonder what thoughts they may have as they get older? Join us as we hear directly from a panel of adult adoptees. Learn from their experiences as they share their unique perspective. All those questions that you have been thinking of and wondering about...this is the perfect environment to ask those questions and get some real life answers.

Discover Adoption—For Family and Friends • 1.5 HOURS

This workshop is designed for your family and close friends who are supporting you on your adoption journey. We will explore the process of adopting, how they can support you both during the adoption process and after you bring your child home, and have time to interact with others who have loved ones who are adopting.



DISCUSSION & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Waiting Family Connection Discussion and Support Meetings • 1.5 HOURS

These meetings are designed to be an informal time of connecting with other families preparing to adopt in order to encourage support and discussion during your wait. Meetings last 1½ hours and include a brief message, activity, or discussion topic, and then are open for additional sharing and support. These meetings are offered in both the Waukesha and Fond du Lac area. You will receive e-mails about upcoming events planned in each area.

Online Discussion Opportunities

Online discussion and support opportunities are wonderful ways to connect with other waiting families and receive information and support from families who may be at the same point in their adoption journey as you! Visit **www.bethany.org**, scroll to the bottom and click on “Discussions,” then click on “More” under one of the three topics. This will expand into more detailed topics to engage in further discussion.

To ensure space and materials, please register at least two (2) weeks prior to the workshop. To register, or for more information, contact:

Kathleen Busse, Adoption
Education Coordinator
Bethany Christian Services,
N14W23755 Stone Ridge Dr,
Ste 265,
Waukesha, WI 53188
kbusse@bethany.org or
262.547.6557

2014 SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Saturday, 11

Raising Adopted Children and Talking About Adoption with Your Children, Family, and Friends

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Community Church

Unique Needs of the Adopted Child

1:00–4:00 p.m. • Community Church

Saturday, 25

How Adoption Impacts the Circle

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. • Oakwood Church

Lifebooks

2:00–4:30 p.m. • Oakwood Church

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, 4

Discover Adoption – For Family and Friends

6:00–7:30 p.m.
Bethany: Waukesha Office

Saturday, 8

Insights from Adult Adoptees

12:00–2:00 p.m. • Community Church

Tuesday, 25

Child and Infant Massage

6:00–8:00 p.m.
New Life Community Church

MARCH

Monday, 3

Maintaining Healthy Hair and Skin for African American Children

6:30–8:30 p.m.
New Life Community Church

Saturday, 15

Blended Families

12:30–2:30 p.m. • Community Church

APRIL

Tuesday, 1

Understanding Depression After Adoption

6:30–8:30 p.m. • Community Church

APRIL (continued)

Saturday, 5

Infant Care, Bonding and Attachment

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

Health Risks During Pregnancy

1:00–3:30 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

MAY

Saturday, 3

How Adoption Impacts the Circle

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Appleton Alliance Church

Lifebooks

2:00–4:30 p.m.
Appleton Alliance Church

Saturday, 17

Transracial and Transcultural Needs in Adoption

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

JUNE

Saturday, 28

Raising Adopted Children and Talking About Adoption with Your Children, Family, and Friends

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

Unique Needs of the Adopted Child

1:00–4:00 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

JULY

Tuesday, 15

Understanding Depression After Adoption

6:30–8:30 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

Saturday, 26

Insights from Adult Adoptees

12:00–2:00 p.m.
Fox River Christian Church

AUGUST

Saturday, 9

Transracial and Transcultural Needs in Adoption

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Appleton Alliance Church

AUGUST (continued)

Monday, 11

Maintaining Healthy Hair and Skin for African American Children

6:30–8:30 p.m.
New Life Community Church

Tuesday, 19

Discover Adoption – For Family and Friends

6:00–7:30 p.m.
Bethany: FDL Office

Saturday, 23

Infant Care, Bonding, and Attachment

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Community Church

Health Risks During Pregnancy and Their Effects on Infants and Children

1:00–3:30 p.m. • Community Church

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, 9

Child and Infant Massage

6:00–8:00 p.m.
New Life Community Church

Saturday, 13

Raising Adopted Children and Talking About Adoption with Your Children, Family, and Friends

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

Unique Needs of the Adopted Child

1:00–4:00 p.m. • Brookfield CRC

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 8

Blended Families

6:00–8:00 p.m. • Cornerstone Church

Saturday, 18

How Adoption Impacts the Circle

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. • Cornerstone Church

Lifebooks

2:00–4:30 p.m. • Cornerstone Church

LOCATIONS AND NOTES

APPLETON ALLIANCE CHURCH

2693 Grand Chute Blvd., Room C101
Appleton, WI 54913

COMMUNITY CHURCH

N6717 Streblov Dr
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Please park in the back of the church.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

N6W31449 Alberta Dr
Delafield, WI 53018

*Workshops are held in the
basement of the church.*

BROOKFIELD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

14135 West Burleigh Rd
Brookfield, WI 53005

FOX RIVER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

546 W24130 Lawnsdale Rd
Waukesha, WI 53189

*Look for workshop location on their
announcement board.*

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

11919 W Bradley Road
Milwaukee, WI 53224

OAKWOOD CHURCH

3041 Oakwood Road
Hartland, WI 53029

BETHANY OFFICE – FDL

101 Wisconsin American Dr
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

BETHANY OFFICE – WAUKESHA

N14W23755 Stone Ridge Dr, Ste 265
Waukesha, WI 53188

ADOPTIVE PARENT EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM

for families adopting through the State Special Needs program
or working with an agency other than BCS

Cost is \$30 per hour per couple (i.e. a three hour workshop is \$90 per couple).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Adoption Agency: _____

Adoption Program/Country: _____ Age of Child Requested: _____

Workshop(s) Planning to Attend	Date	Cost
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Payment is enclosed. Make checks payable to Bethany Christian Services. Include workshop name in memo.

Return registration and payment to:

Bethany Christian Services,
Attn: Kathileen Busse
N14W23755 Stone Ridge Dr, Ste 265
Waukesha, WI 53188