



## A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,  
but who belongs to this child."*

### July 2014



#### Matching Assistance Program

If you are a home study approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, consider signing up for our FREE Matching Assistance Program! Some of our site features include suggested matches, the ability to mark children as a favorite, add notes, and see recruitment updates for children as we receive them, to name a few!

Our goal is to work alongside families, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance, and support during the submission and waiting process. As a member of

### Common Diagnoses

Children in foster care are often given diagnoses that may be daunting to a foster or adoptive parent. Almost all of a child's diagnoses and needs stem from the trauma they endured prior to being placed in your home. Becoming familiar with the following common diagnoses will help you become a better resource for your child:

- **Attachment Disorders** - One of the most common challenges a foster child faces is the ability to attach to a caregiver. For so long they have had to rely on themselves to survive, that it's nearly impossible to lower that wall and let someone else in. This is incredibly frustrating to a parent who wants their child to bond with them, and does everything they can to make that happen. Understanding how a child's history has affected their ability to bond and attach will give you clues as to how to approach them. One of the most common attachment disorders is Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). RAD typically occurs when a child has been physically or emotionally abused, neglected, and/or they have experienced severe disruptions in previous relationships. To learn more about attachment disorders and how to work through them, please visit

Matching Assistance you will have the ability to submit your home study and family profile for over 2,000 waiting children and sibling groups listed on our site, with the assurance that your submission is going directly to a child's caseworker.

Your adoption worker will be receive a copy of your submission with information on where to follow up, so they will be kept in the loop. In addition, you will have the opportunity to partake in our very successful recruitment services; receive weekly how to emails containing valuable information and resources about foster care adoption; receive weekly emails featuring recently listed children; have access to knowledgeable and helpful staff, and more!

[Sign up](#) today to take full advantage of our free program!

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## Additional Resources

**Arleta James** - [Adoptive Articles](#)

**Child Trauma Training Academy** - [Free Online Courses](#)

**Child Welfare Information Gateway** - [Selecting and Working with a Therapist](#)

the [ATTACH](#) website.

- **Developmental Delays/Learning Disabilities**
  - Developmental delays and learning disabilities are two of the more common special needs you will see in a foster child. A variety of factors impact a child's development and learning abilities, including but not limited to, prenatal exposure to drugs; [abuse, trauma and neglect](#); environmental factors; and a lack of consistent schooling. It is important that you do some research into common learning disabilities, and learn how to become an advocate for your child. They will most likely be on an Individualized Education Plan, or [IEP](#), and it will be your job to ensure that they are getting all the services they need not only at home but also in school. Ask your child's pediatrician for recommendations for learning and development professionals that can help your child. You may also want to refer to the [National Center for Learning Disabilities \(NCLD\)](#) website for additional information on learning disabilities and resources.
- **Emotional Issues** - Not surprisingly, children who have experienced abuse, trauma and neglect often develop emotional issues as a result. These emotional issues can appear as attachment disorders, poor coping skills, inability to make and keep friends, issues telling the truth and throwing tantrums, just to name a few. It is likely that a child never learned appropriate coping mechanisms prior to being placed in your home, and depending on their developmental age they may not have the words to verbalize their feelings. It is important that as the child's caregiver you understand [trauma's effects on the developing brain](#). Your child will most definitely [benefit from counseling](#) as well to work through past issues.
- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)** - The diagnoses of PTSD is not just reserved for veterans; it can impact children in the child welfare system as well. Physical abuse,

**Kid's Health** - [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder](#)

**National Child Traumatic Stress Network** - [Trauma Resources](#)

**National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections** - [Information Packet: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Children in Foster Care](#)

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## Recent Matches!

Congratulations to the following families who were matched in May and June!

- **T & D** with a sibling group on our site!
- **K & B** with an out-of-state child on our site!
- **M & K** with an out-of-state child on our site!
- **M & M** with an in-state sibling group on our site!
- **K & D** with an out-of-state child on our site!
- **M & B** with an out-of-state child on our site!
- **J. P** with an out-of-state-child!
- **T & E** with an out-of-state sibling group!
- **M & S** with an in-state child
- **N & S** with an in-state child
- **J & K** with an out-of-state child
- **J & C** with an in-state child
- **J. T** with an in-state child
- **T & F** with an in-state child
- **H & J**

sexual abuse, or witnessing domestic violence can all cause PTSD in children. [Become familiar](#) with the signs of PTSD, the risk factors, and the types of therapies that are beneficial for children who are diagnosed with PTSD.

If you're struggling with your child's behaviors, remember the following:

- **Don't skip out on important trainings.** Take every opportunity to learn about your child's needs, diagnosed or undiagnosed.
- **Don't go at it alone.** All parents need support, whether or not they have a partner in the home. Join a support group, seek out therapy, and reach out to your adoption worker for help. There is no shame in asking for help and advice as you need it. By doing so you will become a better resource for your child, and you will show him/her it's ok to rely on other people when you need to.
- **Don't assume anything.** Your child's behaviors may be very manageable despite how they read on paper, or they could be incredibly difficult. Your past experience as a parent may come in handy, or you could be in for a completely new experience. Keep an open mind, and be willing to learn.
- **Forget about "normal".** If you think about it, is any family truly normal? What you and your child will be going through is unique, and you should surround yourselves with people who understand that. Don't compare yourself to the neighbor next door, your siblings, or your best friend. Every family has their strengths, challenges, and needs. Once you adopt, your family will never be the same as it was before. And that's okay.

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## **Waiting Agency Family**

**Meet Stephanie and Christopher!**

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## Recent Placements!

Congratulations to the following families who were placed in May and June:

- **L & J** with an out-of-state sibling group on our site!
- **C & S** with an out-of-state child!
- **C & R** with out-of-state sibling group!
- **C & H** with an in-state child



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## Volunteer Needs

### Family Adoption Specialist

The Matching Assistance Program is looking for a Family Adoption Specialist to work alongside our Matching Assistance Families. It is the responsibility of the Family Adoption Specialist to read a family's biography and provide suggestions for improvements, assist families with offsite submissions, provide support, and resources. This position can be done remotely anywhere in the country.

Desired qualifications include:

- Computer proficiency
- The ability to work with minimal supervision while completing work in a timely manner
- Excellent verbal and written skills with the ability to communicate

Hello! We are Stephanie and Christopher. Thank you for reading our profile. Our family includes two dogs -- Lizzy and Zia -- but we do not yet have any children. We would like to be matched with a boy between the ages of 4 and 12 years old. We may be open to additional siblings or groups in the future, but are currently looking for a single child. Any race is fine and we are open maintaining any previous connections or relationships with birth families or foster families, in any manner that is safe for the child.

In our free time, we enjoy all the wonderful outdoor activities that Central Oregon has to offer. Stephanie likes to garden and run the nearby trails. Chris likes to toss tennis balls for the dogs and often joins Stephanie on the trails with his mountain bike.

We love children and have actively participated in our family and friends'

across diverse  
populations

- The ability to provide support, empathy and resources to adoptive families
- A strong sense of customer service

Please [contact](#) the Matching Assistance Coordinator to learn more about the position. Training will be provided. A commitment of at least 5 hours a week for at least 3 months is preferred.

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journeys as parents. Stephanie's nieces are now 3 and 6 and we have both been actively involved in their care. We frequently have supported our friends in caring for their children. This has included weekend overnights caring for newborns and routinely helping with toddler twins when one parent was out of town.

We are very committed to growing our family through adoption. This is not a 'second-best' choice for us, but one that we have always seriously considered as an ideal plan. We are very excited to open our home and our hearts. We look forward to learning from the process and the new addition to our family. We believe that every child deserves the chance to thrive and have a stable, happy home. [Learn more about Stephanie and Christopher!](#)

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## [Waiting Matching Assistance Family](#)

### **Meet Carrie!**



Hello, my name is Carrie. I would love to adopt a little girl between the ages of 1 and 8 years old. I can accommodate one child. I prefer to adopt a child of Caucasian, Hispanic, or Asian ethnic background. I am open to children who are failure to thrive, low birth weight, or born premature. I would accept a child who is behind in school because of attendance or with speech/language impairment. I do not mind having continuing contact with the child's former foster parents by email

I enjoy spending time with family and friends and exercising. I work full-time as a first grade teacher and have a flexible work schedule. I believe in being hard-working, being responsible, doing my best, being a good person being a Christian, and living as God wants us to live. When at home I usually spend time with my pets, complete house cleaning, and complete schoolwork.

I am a licensed foster parent. I cared for a three-year-old little boy for two months and a one-year-old little girl for three months until they were placed with relatives. I am patient, caring, and have had extensive experience with children. I have had much training and experience with children. I have worked with children with special needs as a special education assistant in a school district. I am an elementary school

teacher. I will not only have myself to think of and care for. I have completed 30 hours of foster care training. The training has covered much about children in foster care. I have also met others in the class who can be resources.

I am ready to be a loving mom to a foster child who needs a forever family. I am committed to adoption. My child will always come first. I will be committed to providing love and care for my child. [Learn more about Carrie!](#)

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## Register for Matching Events

A Family for Every Child offers two different matching events that families and caseworkers may partake in and benefit from. The first are **Child Matching Events**. During Child Matching Events, caseworkers may present the biographies of the waiting children on their caseload to home study approved families. In turn, families may ask the caseworker questions about the child, and then submit their home study at the end of the event if they are interested.

The second are **Family Matching Events**. During Family Matching Events, families may present their biographies to caseworkers, allowing caseworkers to ask questions and connect families with

children on their caseload that they feel would be a good match for the family. Keep checking the matching event pages to see additional children who will be participating in the event!

You may register for upcoming matching events and view past events all from our [Matching Events home page](#).

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