

Family Matters

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The Special Needs Adoption Coalition


A Family For Every Child
www.afamilyforeverychild.org
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Finding Forever Families for Children with Special Needs

January/February 2010

Never Give Up Hope

from Summer 2002 *Adoptalk*
by Jason S. Adams

When Jason was 13, he won first place in a writing contest sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Social Services. The essay question was, "What advice would you give to the person you were five years ago and why?" Below is his award winning response, as first printed in the Spring 2001 South Carolina Youth Connected.

Five years ago, I was just a confused and scared little boy of eight years old. I had lost all that I had ever known, yet believed that my mom would somehow change and that she would do the right things to get me back.

To make a long story short, she didn't. She just dropped out of my life. As I went from one foster home to another, I lost hope. I was put in a children's home where I stayed for a long time.

Lisa Huskey in Greenville was my social worker. One day she told me that a man wanted to adopt me. I was real hopeful but really scared. I was afraid that he wouldn't like me after he met me. What if I was adopted and it turned out to be just like the foster homes? If that happened, then I just thought I would die.

The man came up in the early spring. I was so nervous about meeting him. He was late. When they told me that he was lost in traffic, I knew that he had changed his mind and left. Why shouldn't he? So many others had.

I had gone to the gym to shoot some hoops when they came and told me that he was here and was waiting to meet me. My stomach

felt sick. I didn't want to meet him. I was so afraid that he wouldn't want me after he saw me. I walked in and there he was. He spoke to me and smiled. Some of my nervousness began to leave.

He was tall and had a beard. I went over to him and gave him a hug. He was a nice man after all. We spent the rest of that day together and I went with him the next day. He was easy to know and I knew this was what I had wanted.

To make the story short, the man adopted me and now he is my dad. I've been with him for three years. It is like I have been with him forever. I have brothers and he adopted all of them. We have lots of fun even though Dad gets on us about homework and chores sometimes.

My dad has shown me how a real dad should be. He can be tough as nails, yet I've learned to trust and to love him because he is kind and funny. We do lots of neat stuff and Dad has taken us all over the American West. With my brothers and me around, we never have a dull moment.

I put Dad through some tough tests. He passed them all, but I had to see if he really wanted me. After a tough time, I told Dad that I was sorry for making it so hard on him and tried to explain that I just had to know. He looked at me and finally smiled and said, "Son, if you are going to test me, why don't you just write it down on paper and let me pass it that way? If you will, it will save me from stripping a gear and having gray hair." My dad is the best.

Today I am 13 years old, have passed seventh grade, play the trumpet, and am in honor band. My grades are good and I have a real family.

The advice I would give the person I was five years ago is to be calm. Don't worry so much. You don't know the future but that doesn't mean it's going to be bad. Never give up hope because a stranger to you can become the man you will call Dad.

Postscript: I'm 15 now and will soon start 10th grade. I'm also studying for my learner's permit. My family has grown to include six brothers. They are all pretty cool most of the time. After 14 months, Dad sent an 11-year-old boy back. He was violent and kept threatening to kill people, but it was hard for all of us to see his placement disrupt. Dad spent a lot of time talking to us and explaining why; we know it was for the best. Now I'm looking forward to finishing high school and going to college. My dad taught me to dream, and I still have a lot of hope for the future.



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WAITING CHILDREN



Skyler, Age 10

Skyler is a particularly charming little man with an infectious smile. He is very outgoing and will engage others immediately upon meeting them, dazzling them with his articulate

and animated conversation. Skyler is very bright and often asks to be challenged, even when working with his incentive program. He is a voracious reader and almost always has his nose in an adventure book. He loves to be outside climbing, exploring or shooting hoops.

Skyler has a younger half brother named Riley, whom he lived with periodically throughout his life. Most recently, Riley attended a big birthday bash for Skyler, along with all of the other extended birth relatives and they had a wonderful time. When they lived together, their relationship was challenging at times. Living apart, they have learned to appreciate each others uniqueness. Riley definitely has a special place in Skyler's heart, and having contact with him as they grow up, will be very important to him.

Skyler needs the comfort that a structured environment and unconditional acceptance can provide. He needs a parent who has unending patience to help him to sort out strong feelings and someone who is strong enough to make him feel protected. Skyler will need the support of a family therapist to help him to adjust and bond to his new family. He will do well in a home where he will be challenged academically and behaviorally. Because of Skyler's behavior challenges in the past, he would do best in a home as the youngest or as an only child, giving him an opportunity to that wonderful unique child he is. For a family like this, Skyler will be a wonderful son, full of energy, surprises and laughter.

Bulletin #13026

Alexis, Age 8

Alexis is an adorable eight year old little girl with light brown eyes and dark brown hair. She has deep dimples in each cheek that she shows off every time she smiles. Alexis is a very loving and

affectionate little girl. She can be very shy until you get to know her. She has an adventurous side and has to be watched carefully to ensure that she does not hurt herself. Alexis enjoys listening to music, dancing, playing with other children, and being the center of attention. She can be caring, generous and helpful. She is very artistic and welcomes the opportunity to draw and create crafts for anybody willing to receive them.

Alexis needs a family who will love her and allow her to be a child. Alexis would benefit from a family that will bond with her and allow her to feel safe emotionally and physically. Alexis needs patience, safety and security when forming new attachments. Alexis enjoys being around other children, and would succeed in a home with either no other children or children significantly older than her. Alexis would benefit from a family willing to continue to work on her personal boundaries between herself and others.

She needs a home that can provide her with a positive attention, clear expectations, a consistent schedule, natural consequences and lots of love. Alexis needs committed permanent parent(s) who will provide ongoing support and understand how early neglect can impact a child's sense of self esteem, well being, and emotional development.

Alexis is a delightful little girl who has enchanted all of the people in her life. She will undoubtedly captivate her new forever family.

Bulletin #13009



Vicktorea, Elizabeth and Dylan, Ages 9, 8 & 6



Vicktorea is a 9 year old who has dark blonde hair and brown eyes. She is a very talkative and happy girl. Vicktorea likes to play with other children. Vicktorea's favorite television show is Hannah Montana. She works well in small groups and is working to gain friends. Although, it should be noted that she is very quick to change from happy to sad.

Elizabeth is an 8 year old who has dark blonde hair, brown eyes and a heavy build. She is the most shy of the three children. Elizabeth often presents as soft spoken; although she can also be socially engaging and highly cooperative. She likes sports and other outside activities.

Dylan is a very likable five year old child who thrives when given affection and structure. Dylan has very good manners, he says please, thank you, and knocks on the bathroom door before entering. He likes to be helpful around the house, assisting with chores such as sweeping and wiping down counters. Dylan appears to attach very quickly (much like his sisters) however with this attachment comes a fear that he will get "left" somewhere.

Vicktorea, Elizabeth, and Dylan need parents who can offer a high level of consistency, stability and routine. These children thrive on regular routines because they have lacked stability and security in their young lives. These children need a family that can provide positive attention and calm, consistent limit setting.

All three of these children will need to learn to trust adults and understand that they will be there to take care of them. These children will need a family that can provide patience and understanding of their special needs, the trauma they have suffered and their attachment issues.

Bulletin #12953

PREPARING A SAFE, SECURE HOME FOR SEXUALLY ABUSED KIDS

BY Mary Carter Creech WARE/NWAE

Mary Carter Creech is the manager of the Adoptive Parents Mentor Program at the Northwest Adoption Exchange. She is a long time adoptive parent of a later placed child. Mary, along with other NWAE staff share some ideas about how parents who foster or adopt children who have been sexually abused can be supported in this difficult task.

It is estimated that 85-95% of children in foster care will have experienced some level of sexual abuse before coming into foster care and/or while in foster care.

The once held belief by adoption workers and foster and adoptive families that within a safe and loving new home children would be able to overcome the past problems and the emotional and behavioral residue of sexual abuse has been dispelled forcefully by children, children who still feel terror, confusion and rage despite the efforts of a new family to make them feel secure. As they move in foster care from family to family, children have a residue of pain and confusion too great to carry and resolve on their own.

Donna Davis, one of the authors of the Foster and Adoptive Parents Preparation Curriculum and a trainer readily admits that the training alone is not sufficient to instruct parents on the complexities of parenting sexually abused kids. She encourages families to assume that a child will have experienced some level of sexual abuse, prepare for how they'll cope with the behaviors, and establish their rules for privacy before the child comes into the home.

She emphasizes that families must examine their own levels of tolerance for a child who sexually acts out. At the conclusion of the training, Davis says, "First, you know that this is a job worth doing, and second, you don't know much." She encourages families to read everything they can find, and to realize the training is just a start.

Tips for "Preparing a Safe Secure Place for Healing"

1. Have boundaries and rules that are clear and safe.
2. Emphasize that feelings can be experienced without choosing to act on them.
3. Supervise in ways that allow you to keep track of your kids at all times and know who they are with, as well as to give opportunities to redirect "trigger" behaviors (aggressive horseplay or teasing and lack of boundaries).
4. Present opportunities for increasing self-control by helping kids learn to identify "trigger" feelings (fear, frustration, anxiety, and stress are possible triggers which may stimulate sexual feelings and

trigger behaviors, and unsafe situations); reduce stress through slow breathing, word hugs, prayers, imaging, etc: develop social, communication and problem solving abilities; understand cause and effect; and develop goal-oriented behavior.

5. Make the "rule of three" a new family rule; avoid just one adult alone with a child, or two kids without an adult. And teach kids the "No/Go/Tell" defense.
6. Talk respectfully about sexuality using correct terms for body parts. Suggestive and ambiguous words, slang, and obscenities can be "triggers" that create feelings of stimulation and shame.
7. Communicate actions and intentions clearly. Touching and cuddling between children and adults may be threatening and may trigger sexualized feelings or behaviors.
8. Discuss how secrets, surprises and privacy differ. Emphasize that there are to be no secret games, stories, clubs, or presents, especially between them and adults or older kids.
9. Discuss openly as a family the boundaries and rules for bedrooms, bathroom, bedtimes, and dressing and undressing. All members need to understand that for kids who have been hurt and compromised by sexual abuse, these may carry sexual or aggressive messages and that all adults (regardless of sex) may be perceived as potentially threatening
10. Provide separate beds for children and separate bedrooms for boys and for girls to help set safe boundaries and encourage privacy.
11. Use logical consequences and behavioral contracts for misbehavior:

The family's sense of optimism for a future child can make it resistant to the realities addressed in training or to what is told to the family by the social worker. And any child, they believe, will thrive in their family with the love, commitment and guidance they will be provided. Norma Nelson, a former state adoption placement worker and no the project manager for the Alaska Adoption Exchange at NWAE, finds the following parental characteristics valuable in helping sexually traumatized children:

- A certain comfort level about sex, e.g., masturbation, reproduction, and birth control can be talked about among family members.
- Every family member has worked through any of their own past sexual abuse issues.
- Comfortable with an intrusive parenting style, "This is the way we do things in this house!"
- A family that is between being what she

describes as closed and too loose. The closed family won't want anyone to help because they believe they know how to handle all problems. The too loose family is often highly influenced by extended family and friends and has little structure. An appropriate family tends to have a healthy flexibility but knows its boundaries and will seek out help. A good sense of humor is usually an important and very useful trait in such a family.

- A family who plans to prepare birth children and talk about the transition of the new child into their home.

For many families, therapeutic intervention becomes the primary source of post-placement training. The child may have begun therapy before being placed in the home. Because therapy can be pivotal in recovery, it is important that the parents be aware of how to choose therapy for their child or determine if the current therapy is working. For many parents, this may be their first experience with therapy and they may have to overcome their own resistance to seeking therapy.

Many families express difficulty finding a mental health professional who understands the issues of their adopted children. A therapist who is doing individual therapy but is not sensitive to the importance of transferring attachments may usurp the parental role and aggravate the child's ability to attaché to the new family. It is important that parents understand the goals of therapy and the child's needs and actively participate in helping the child change behaviors.

For therapy to be successful, it must directly relate to the presenting problems the family and child are experiencing and be based on a good understanding of adoption dynamics. The therapeutic interventions that are viewed as most helpful are those that are active and direct and focused on strategies to help children change negative behaviors and to learn to trust sufficiently to be able and willing to form attachments with their adoptive parents.



Coming Soon!
FAMILY MATTERS
Newsletter
via e-mail

If interested, please reply to
helena@afamilyforeverychild.org

WAITING CHILDREN

James, Levi and Hannah, Ages 5, 4 & 2



James, Levi, and Hannah are a beautiful sibling group who present with many strengths and challenges. While Levi currently lives in a separate foster home, James and Hannah are

placed together. These are very lovable children who are all looking for a very special family to call their own.

James is an especially handsome, sweet little boy with light blonde hair and a light complexion. He has bright blue eyes with a smile that sparkles. His smile shows a very innocent and sweet nature about him. He likes to laugh and play with his sister, Hannah. He enjoys playing with toy cars and trucks as well as playing on the foster mother's swing set.

James can be described as inquisitive, sweet, and energetic. At times, James likes to help out around the house with Hannah. While James has some challenges, he has made tremendous gains since being in care.

Levi is a bubbly, cute boy with a light complexion and very light blonde hair as well. He resembles James and they have even been mistaken for twins. He has blue eyes and a warm smile that lights up his face. He likes to play on the computer and can even type words, such as macaroni and cheese. He enjoys listening to music and likes when the foster father plays musical instruments for him. Levi can be described as a quirky, energetic, and determined boy. Levi is very skilled in some areas yet has some hindrances in others. He can be very detail oriented and much of the time becomes distracted.

Hannah is a very strong spirited, inquisitive little girl with blonde hair, blue eyes with light complexion. She has a very sweet laugh that makes one laugh upon hearing it. She likes to dance to music and follows her older brother, James, around to try and keep up with him. She likes to play on the swing set at her foster mother's home.

James, Levi, and Hannah, are in need of a loving home that is able to provide consistency, routine, and affection. The adoptive family should know how to access necessary resources, have the time to take them to their numerous medical appointments, and advocate for their educational needs. The adoptive family needs to provide a home with structure and predictability. They should have educated themselves regarding the special needs of the children and agree to use behavior management techniques. The family should provide many opportunities for education, socialization, and pursuing individual interests. The children have a bond to their biological parents and their adoptive family should be open to maintaining contact with the birth family after placement.

Bulletin #13014

Breanna, Brenden, Ethan & Roman, Ages 11, 9, 6 & 2

Meet this beautiful sibling group of four! Breanna, Brenden, Ethan, and Roman are a strongly attached unit looking for the right family to love and care for them. They love Mexican food, so get ready for a lively taco night with these four children in the house!



Breanna is a very outgoing girl who thrives on attention. As the oldest, she has been very protective of her siblings and her mother, so she can, at times, try to be the parent instead of a child.

Brenden is a very handsome young man who has had to grow up very fast. Brenden loves to be active and help others. Brenden can also be a great "debater" and will often argue, more because he genuinely enjoys the argument rather than to be defiant or difficult.

Ethan is the dare devil of the group. He can be very determined and strong willed. Happily, now Ethan is reported to be doing a tremendous job developing trust and attaching to the adults in his life. He now appears to enjoy close physical contact such as hugs.

Roman is the little guy that all of the older children dote on! Roman is very sweet and loves to cuddle. While the children are not currently residing together, it is hoped that they will find an adoptive family who will honor their strong ties and adopt them together. The ideal adoptive family will have strong boundaries and be able to offer stability and consistency. These children will do best as either the only or the youngest sibling group in the home. A family who has a clear understanding of how the trauma these children have endured may manifest both now and in the future will best serve these children.

While it is likely that these children will challenge and test their adoptive parents, they are beautiful children both inside and out. Along with the challenges that these children are sure to bring to a family, they also offer a tremendous depth of love and affection for one another, loyalty, strength in the face of what they have endured, and unlimited potential. With the right family, the sky's the limit for this foursome!

Bulletin #12916

The Book Corner

Raising Shane: Foster Care & Adoption of the Special-Needs Child

by Kate Rosemary



In fifty-two short chapters on different topics related to adoption and foster care, this book invites you to consider and prepare for realistic possibilities your agency may not think to mention. This book is written from the point of view of a foster and adoptive parent who has found the experience to be fulfilling, rewarding, gratifying, and exhausting!

WAITING CHILDREN

James, Taylor and Alexa, Ages 10, 4 & 3



James is a slender 10 year old boy with dark brown hair and brown eyes. James is a very polite boy. He loves anything that has to do with monster trucks. He gets along well with most kids he plays with, but socially presents as younger than his actual age. James likes to ride his bicycle. James is always trying to be helpful and does help out a lot around his foster home.

Taylor is an adorable 4 year old girl with brown hair and brown eyes. Taylor is very friendly and very active! She loves to be around other children as well as her brother and sister. Taylor is great at showing her personality through her very expressive faces. She loves to play with dolls, color, and watch cartoons. She does not have much anxiety around strangers and adjusts well to new situations.

Alexa, who generally goes by "Lexie" is an adorable 3 year old who is easy going. Lexie likes being cuddled and is more affectionate than Taylor. She, too, is an active little girl. Lexie has a happy disposition. She likes to watch movies, play with dolls, and being read to. Unlike her older sister, Lexie takes longer to adjust to new people, and doesn't transition to new people places easily. She is almost potty-trained now and is improving in that area.

James, Taylor and Lexie are all very bonded to their birth mother and would likely benefit from having an adoptive family who is willing to do mediation with their biological mother. **"Ideally the adoptive family will be able to provide and support frequent visits with bio family"**.

James, Taylor and Alexa need a family who can offer a high level of consistency, stability and routine. These children thrive on regular routines because they have lacked that stability and sense of security in their lives. They need parents who can provide positive attention and calm, consistent limit setting.

Bulletin #13005

William, Age 7

William is an active, eight-year-old boy, who loves outdoor activities, riding his bike, playing video games and watching movies. Though he has had multiple placements and is slow to attach, William has formed attachments with his current foster Mom (whom he has lived with for the past four years), and his sister (who has been adopted, separately), with whom he visits, regularly.



Due to some cognitive delays and other medical conditions, William is currently eligible for Developmental Disability Services, and he is on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) at school for behavioral and emotional disturbances. William is sensitive to the emotions of others and he can be delightful and kind, sometimes, or aggressive and defiant other times. He is behind, academically and socially, and has recently begun 2nd grade, in a small-group, specialized classroom. With medication, counseling and a Behavior Specialist, William has made improvements in developing his social skills and managing his behavior, and he will likely continue to need specialized services to continue making progress.

William needs emotionally even, patient and calm parents, who can closely supervise and manage oppositional behavior, in a highly structured home. William would benefit most by a two-parent family, who is ready, willing and able to commit to working with other service providers and advocating for William now and in the future. Prospective adoptive parents who are open to continued contact with his current foster Mom and his sister will be viewed favorably.

Bulletin #12847

Mason and Blathin, Age: 2 & 3



Meet 3 year old Blathin and 2 year old Mason, brothers who are much attached to each other. They share toys with one another and smile when the other sibling comes into the room. These brothers currently live in separate loving foster homes. These two brothers are waiting for a loving forever home that they can call their own.

Blathin loves to dance and be around other children. Blathin just started preschool and puts together three word sentences as well as continuing to progress with learning new words. His favorite show is Dora the Explorer and he loves to play Hide-n-Go-Seek.

Mason often smiles and makes laughing noises. Mason loves to be held and often smiles. He shows attachment towards his brother and others through his facial expressions.

It is important that the brothers be placed together. The family will need knowledge of medical issues and ways to address those issues in the home. Optimally, the family would have other children, either older or younger. The ideal caregivers would provide safety, stability, consistency, predictability, a high level of medical interventions, structure, and limits.

Bulletin #13016

WAITING CHILDREN

Tara and Liam, Ages 4 & 5



Say hello to 5 year old Tara and her 4 year old brother Liam. These two children are waiting for a loving family, with experienced and skilled parents.

Tara is petite for her age and she is in good physical health. She has big grey eyes, and you will almost always catch her smiling. Tara has some significant developmental delays that will require strong devotion, unconditional love, patience and understanding of her needs. She has qualified for Developmental Disability Services, which she may receive through adulthood. She wears glasses and will require future medical treatment to correct an eye condition. Tara is very friendly and likes family games and events.

Due to her past abuse, she will need parents who will help her understand personal boundaries and who recognize that she'll need time to attach to her family.

Liam is a bright and adorable boy, who is eager to please. Liam has been attending preschool, where he is able to maintain socially and academically with his peers. He is a curious and loving child, who needs lots of attention, guidance and reassurance.

Tara and Liam were placed in foster care in 2007. Both children were extremely neglected and severely abused in their early lives, and as a result, they have behavioral and emotional needs that far exceed the average child. Both children have trouble sleeping and can be prone to traumatic recall of events. It is essential that the adoptive parents be educated and/or willing to learn about the unique parenting that these children require.

Bulletin #12930

Shyannah (Hannah) Age 10

Hannah's smile is contagious and her presence brightens any room. She is tall and thin with blond hair that she loves to have styled. Hannah is very healthy and is determined to stay that way; she enjoys eating healthy and being active.

Hannah loves to eat! Her favorite foods are anything sweet especially soda pop and candy. She also loves to be active; she takes pride in her ability to swim and describes herself as a fast runner and as "the best tether ball player in her class". She is very artistic and enjoys giving her art work as gifts. She loves animals and would love to have a cat of her own.

Hannah has a dedicated relationship with her older sister who is 19 years old. Hannah's older sister loves her very much and often takes her on outings on the weekends or visits her at the foster home in the evenings. Hannah needs to have ongoing and regular contact with her sister. Hannah is also bonded with her biological mother and ongoing supervised contact with her would likely be a positive thing in her life. Hannah would also benefit from continued contact with her current foster parents, as she has lived with them for a significant amount of time and everyone feels that she is an important part of the family.

Hannah would like a family that loves her and that serves delicious food at mealtimes. She would love to have her own room and wants to be able to paint it any color she wants. She enjoys being on farms and playing outside but also enjoys having close neighbors and a place to ride her bike. Hannah is an amazing child who will be a shining star in her new family! She adds character and a little excitement to the most mundane activities and will make a wonderful addition to the right family.



Bulletin #13019

Ayden, Madysin, Shyanne and Hollie, Ages 5, 4, 3 & 1



This is a wonderful sibling group that needs a very structured, nurturing, and consistent family.

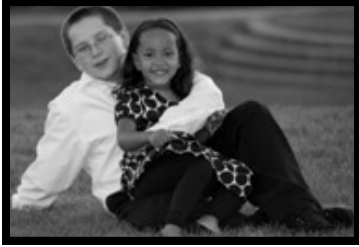
Ayden has a great personality and is an energetic little boy. He loves to play with trains and really enjoys puzzles. Madysin is an energetic and outgoing four year old. She likes books and being read to. Shyanne is a sweet and adorable little three year old. She has big beautiful eyes and a sweet disposition. Hollie is a little lover. Hollie is also content to play and entertain herself with one focused task.

These four children need a home that has some specific characteristics. They need a home that is very structured, routine yet able to provide a lot of nurturing for each of them. They will need a family that has a strong support network around them to help. Each child has individualized special needs and would benefit from caregivers who are able to provide them with one on one time as much as possible. They will need a family that has at least one stay at home parent. The family must advocate for the children and seek the counseling and services they will continue to need. The children would be better in a home with no other children, given their high needs for attention and assistance in making up for lost skills due to early neglect.

Bulletin #13034

WAITING CHILDREN

Aarhon and Gabryella Age: 13 & 4



Aarhon and Gabby are two fantastic children who are resilient, charming. They are friendly and a joy to be around, which is clearly evident after spending a short while with them.

Aarhon is very smart and is capable of working above grade level in school. He does tend to need reminders to do his homework and help with organization. He is a tall, stocky young man with light brown hair. Aarhon can be considered the "class clown" and always tries to entertain. He is witty and articulate and at first presents as being much older than his age, due to his extensive vocabulary.

Gabryella "Gabby" is a sweet happy little girl. She has long curly black hair and a smile that lights up the room. She is a little behind academically but is working on learning the alphabet, numbers, and colors. Gabby loves playing dress up, dancing around, pretending, and playing with her dolls.

Both Aarhon and Gabryella are healthy and happy. They would do best in a family that can offer routine and structure. They are close to one another and have strong family bonds, which would require contact with their older siblings, and their birth mother.

Bulletin #13008

Spotlight on Success

A little update on Chelsea...

I've been hearing the same thing lately from all of my friends and family --- "what a difference a year makes"

Everyone is amazed at how Chelsea has changed in the past year -- how calm she looks, how content, how at ease...how at home she looks.

We live in a wonderful community that is very family oriented and geared towards children and Chelsea has taken advantage of all it has to Offer. She is on the swim team, she takes tennis and sailing lessons, plays the flute in band and has taken part in the school talent show and the community sponsored musical review. She has lots of friends and spends days riding her bike or working with her watercolors.

School and schoolwork were a bit of a challenge at first but she has really blossomed in the past year --- Her 4th grade report card was filled with "good" and "excellent" and last June, she won a grade-wide contest with an essay about her Uncle Oscar and how he went to a dance

with her. My brother loved to hear that!

But you know what she loves most? She loves to hear that she looks just like me -- especially when strangers tell us -- people who don't know I did not carry her for 9 months!

Nan Mandes



Special Needs Adoption Training

DHS requires prospective adoptive and foster parents to complete a series of classes known as "Foundations Training for Caregivers" and provides this training through DHS offices, private agencies and partnerships. Class topics include:

Attachment
Grief and Loss
Impact of Abuse on Development
Behavior Management

Sexual Abuse and its Impact on Children
Working with Birth Parents
Impact of Drugs on Children
Honoring a Child's Heritage

Classes begin with an orientation that provides an overview of the adoption process in Oregon.

Free DHS "Foundations" Training by County can be found at:
<http://www.afamilyforeverychild.org> — then click on 'Trainings'

A Family For Every Child & Christian Family Adoptions:
"Foundations Training For Caregivers"

Cost: Free, Materials provided for each attendee

To register contact: 503.232.1211 or www.christianfamilyadoptions.org

Orientation Dates: Jan 19, Feb 23, Mar 23 | Training Dates: Jan 22-24, Mar 26-28



A Family For Every Child
4211 West 11th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402

Special Needs Adoption Training Options (cont)

Boys & Girls Aid Present:

Special Needs Pre-Adoption Orientation and Training

Cost: Orientation is free | \$50/person for training

Training fees will be credited towards Boys and Girls Aid application fees

Location: Boys and Girls Aid, 018 SW Boundary Court, Portland, Or. 97239

Phone: 503.222.9661 | Toll Free 1.877.932.2734 | adoption@boysandgirlsaid.org

Training: Training: Jan 29th 2010, 6-9pm | Jan 30th 2010, 9:30-4:30pm | Jan 31, 2010, 9:30-4:30pm

Adoption Support Services

- **Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC) – Portland Metro Area**
www.orparc.org email: orparc@nwresource.org or call: 1 (800) 764-8367
- **Adoption Counseling and Education Services (ACES) – Beaverton, Portland, Dundee**
www.adoptioncounselingservices.com
 - **Adoption Mosaic - Portland**
www.adoptionmosaic.org email: info@adoptionmosaic.org or call: (971) 533-0102
 - **Kinship House - Portland**
www.kinshiphouse.org email: khouse1@qwest.net or call: (503) 460-2796
 - **Northwest Adoptive Families Association (NAFA) - Portland**
www.nafaonline.org email: information@nafaonline.org or call: (503) 243-1356
- **The Oregon Parent Training and Information Center (ORPTI) - Salem**
www.orpti.org email: info@orpti.org or call: 1 (888) 505-2673
 - **Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN) - Eugene**
www.ofsn.org email: ofsn@ofsn.org or call: 1 (800) 323-8521
- **Parenting Connections: The R.A.F.T. (Relative, Adoptive, and Foster Family Team) – Portland**
www.pctheraft.org email: admin@pctheraft.org or call: (503) 761-4686
- **Online Counseling/Coaching – Adoption Support at your Fingertips – Lyn Marx, M.S., L.P.C.**
www.adoptionsupportonline.com or call:(541) 514-5572
- **Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services - Child Welfare Partnership (Portland State University)**
<http://cwpsalem.pdx.edu/foster/index.htm> or call: Dawn Perrault at (503) 365-4772
 - **Boys and Girls Aid—Becoming a Love and Logic Parent (Portland)**
(503) 222-9661 | Toll Free 1-877-932-2734