



  
**BETHANY**<sup>®</sup>  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES  

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CALLED TO CARE. COMMITTED TO CHILDREN.

# 2009 Adoptive Family Education Series

**Domestic  
Adoption  
Program**



# 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 is much that is left to chance 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, beginning as infants and that could develop throughout their lives.



## How Adoption Impacts the Triad: Adoptee, Adoptive Family and Birth Family

4 hours

Adoption doesn’t end with the finalization day, it begins before the child is born and continues on throughout his or her life. As well, adoption impacts the adoptive parents and birthparents long before the birth and onward as well. This workshop will focus on understanding the impact of grief and loss on all individuals in the adoption triad. 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 to think about your own family’s upcoming lifelong relationship with your child’s birth family.

**Prerequisite:** Read the book, *Because I Loved You: A Birthmother’s View of Open Adoption*, by P. Dischler (2006). Can be purchased at [www.patriciadischler.com](http://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 being with and caring for children. However, adoptive parents typically do not go through birthing classes to learn the basics of infant care, hygiene, and first aid. In addition, attachment and bonding are core components of developing a relationship with your child from the moment he or she is placed in your hearts. This workshop will provide you with practical and useful infant care information and help you understand the essentials of bonding and attachment of and 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 adoptions 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 in creating a page or two for a lifebook.



## 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 including what to tell and not tell about your adoption experience and your child's personal story will be covered, helping you to develop a repertoire of responses to both curious and intrusive questions from others.

**Prerequisite:** *Raising Adopted Children*, by Lois Ruskai Melina (1998).

**Recommended additional 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 include: understanding potential effects of abuse, cultural heritage, resources, school needs, and advocating for your child in relation to education and medical needs.

## Optional Workshops



### Adopted: The Movie

2.5 hours

This workshop will offer the viewing of an 80 minute documentary focusing on transracial adoption, and will follow with an interactive group discussion facilitated by Dr. Samantha Wilson.

An excerpt from the website, [www.adoptedthemovie.com](http://www.adoptedthemovie.com), describes the movie, “*Adopted* reveals the grit rather than the glamour of transracial adoption. First-time director Barb Lee goes deep into the intimate lives of two well-meaning families and shows us the subtle challenges they face. One family is just beginning the process of adopting a baby from China and is filled with hope and possibility. The other family’s adopted Korean daughter is now 32 years old. Prompted by her adoptive mother’s terminal illness, she tries to create the bond they never had. The results are riveting, unpredictable and telling. While the two families are at opposite ends of the journey, their stories converge to show us that love isn’t always enough.”

**Note:** While the content of the documentary focuses primarily on adoption from Asian countries, the concepts of the documentary are valuable for any transracial adoptive family, whether adopting domestically or internationally.



### Blended Families

2 hours

Through this workshop, developed for families created through birth and adoption, families will learn 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.



### CPR for the Adult, Child and Infant

3 hours

This workshop is designed to give you the confidence to respond to your child with life saving skills if a situation would arise where s/he is in need of breathing or cardiac assistance. This workshop consists of comprehensive, current, and high quality instruction. Lecture, video, and hands on training will teach life saving techniques for individuals of all ages. This training will have an extra emphasis on infants and children age 12 and under in need of breathing and cardiac assistance. This workshop is taught by a certified American Red Cross CPR instructor and follows the American Red Cross training curriculum. After successful completion of the training, participants will receive American Red Cross CPR certification valid for one year.

**Pre-requisite:** Bethany waiting, adoptive, or foster family

**Fee:** Bethany families - \$10 per person for certification & materials  
Other families – regular fees apply.

**Note:** This workshop does not count towards the State of Wisconsin 18 hours of Core Competencies for Adoptive Parent Education. This does count toward foster parent licensure.



## Maintaining Healthy Hair and Skin for Transracially Adopted 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 adoptive parents do not know how to adequately care for their child's hair and skin needs. This workshop will include practical information on caring for ethnic hair and skin. Helpful techniques will be shared and demonstrated on models, as well as useful products and important tips. This workshop will be taught by a professional hair stylist.



## Understanding Transracial and Transcultural Needs in Adoption 2.5 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 family built through adoption and will discuss how you can help your child grow up self assured, and culturally competent.



## Transracial/Transcultural Adoption Series

4 week series

Saturdays, January 10, February 7, March 7, & April 4, 2009, 12:30pm-3:00pm  
6737 W Washington Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53214

Hosted by Adoption Resources of Wisconsin

When you bring a child of a different background into your home, your family immediately becomes diverse in the eyes of your neighbors, colleagues and even those whom you have never met. Educate yourself in the ways to handle racism, talk about cultural differences and understand the day-to-day challenges you and your child may face. Presenter Cyndie Odyia-Weis is an adoptive parent and professional in the field of adoption. She comes with her personal knowledge of dealing with these issues as well as an extensive history of training.

**Cost:**\$35 per person/ \$45 per twosome

For more information or to register please call Adoption Resources at 414-475-1246.

## Discussion and Support Group:



### Waiting Family Connection

This is designed to be an informal time of connecting with others to encourage support and discussion during the time waiting to adopt. Meetings with last 1 ½ hours and will include a brief activity or discussion topic, and then be open for additional sharing and support. Contact Danielle for location and additional information.

#### Fond du Lac Group 6:30-8:00 PM:

Tuesday, February 10  
Tuesday, May 26  
Tuesday September 1  
Tuesday, December 15

#### Waukesha Group 6:30-8:00 PM:

Tuesday, January 13  
Tuesday, April 7  
Tuesday, July 7  
Tuesday, October 6

Please register at least two weeks prior to the workshop.  
For information details or to register, please contact:

Danielle Nelson, MSW  
Adoption Education and Support Coordinator  
Bethany Christian Services  
N14W23755 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 265  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-547-6557  
[dnelson@bethany.org](mailto:dnelson@bethany.org)

## 2009 Schedule

\*\* indicates required workshops

See website for maps/driving directions [www.bethany.org/wisconsin](http://www.bethany.org/wisconsin)

### January

#### **Infant Care, Bonding, and Attachment\*\***

Saturday, January 24 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Brookfield Christian Reformed Church, 14135 Burleigh Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

#### **CPR**

Saturday, January 24 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Location: Bethany Office – Waukesha, N14W23755 Stoneridge Dr, Ste 265, Waukesha, WI 53188

### February

#### **Unique Needs of the Adopted Child\*\***

Saturday, February 21 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Brookfield Christian Reformed Church, 14135 Burleigh Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

#### **Health Risks During Pregnancy and Their Effects on Infants and Children\*\***

Saturday, February 21 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Brookfield Christian Reformed Church, 14135 Burleigh Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

### March

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

Saturday, March 21 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: St. Dominic's Church, 18255 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045

#### **Lifebooks: A Tool in Developing Your Adopted Child's Positive Self Esteem and Identity\*\***

Saturday, March 21 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

<b>April</b>	<p>Location: St. Dominic's Church, 18255 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045</p> <p><b>How Adoption Impacts the Triad: Adoptee, Adoptive Family, and Birth Family**</b></p> <p>Saturday, April 25 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p> <p>Location: RiverGlen Christian Church, S31 W30601 Sunset Dr., Waukesha, WI 53189</p>
<b>May</b>	<p><b>CPR</b></p> <p>Saturday, April 25 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM</p> <p>Location: Bethany Office – Waukesha, N14W23755 Stoneridge Dr, Ste. 265, Waukesha, WI 53188</p> <p><b>Raising Adopted Children and Talking About Adoption with your Children, Family, and Friends**</b></p> <p>Saturday, May 2 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Lighthouse Christian Church, 401 S National Ave, Fond Du Lac, WI 54935</p>
<b>June</b>	<p><b>Lifebooks: A Tool in Developing Your Adopted Child's Positive Self Esteem and Identity**</b></p> <p>Saturday, May 2 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM</p> <p>Location: Lighthouse Christian Church, 401 S National Ave, Fond Du Lac, WI 54935</p> <p><b>CPR</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 16 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Community Church, N6717 Streblov Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54937</p>
<b>July</b>	<p><b>Infant Care, Bonding, and Attachment**</b></p> <p>Saturday, July 11 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Cornerstone Church, N6W31449 Alberta Dr, Delafield, WI 53018</p> <p><b>Blended Family</b></p> <p>Tuesday, July 21 6:00 – 8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Bethany Office – Waukesha, N14W23755 Stoneridge Dr, Ste. 265, Waukesha, WI 53188</p>
<b>August</b>	<p><b>Maintaining Healthy Hair and Skin for Transracially Adopted Children</b></p> <p>Saturday, July 25 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM</p> <p>Location: River Valley Church, 1331 High Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54901</p> <p><b>Unique Needs of the Adopted Child**</b></p> <p>Saturday, August 29 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p> <p>Location: St. Dominic's Church, 18255 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045</p> <p><b>Health Risks During Pregnancy and Their Effects on Infants and Children**</b></p> <p>Saturday, August 29 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM</p> <p>Location: St. Dominic's Church, 18255 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045</p>
<b>September</b>	<p><b>Understanding Transracial and Transcultural Needs in Adoption</b></p> <p>Tuesday, September 15 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM</p> <p>Location: Bethany Office – Waukesha, N14W23755 Stoneridge Dr, Ste. 265,</p>

	Waukesha, WI 53188
	<b>Raising Adopted Children and Talking About Adoption with Your Children, Family, and Friends**</b> Saturday, September 19 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Location: Cornerstone Church, N6W31449 Alberta Dr, Delafield, WI 53018
	<b>Lifebooks: A Tool in Developing Your Adopted Child’s Positive Self Esteem and Identity**</b> Saturday, September 19 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM Location: Cornerstone Church, N6W31449 Alberta Dr, Delafield, WI 53018
	<b>Adopted: The Movie</b> Tuesday, September 22, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Location: Brookfield Christian Reformed Church, 14135 Burleigh Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005
<b>October</b>	<b>How Adoption Impacts the Triad: Adoptee, Adoptive Family, and Birth Family**</b> Saturday, October 24 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Location: St. Dominic’s Church, 18255 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045
	<b>CPR</b> Saturday, October 24 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM Location: Bethany Office – Waukesha, N14W23755 Stoneridge Dr. Ste, 265, Waukesha, WI 53188
<b>November</b>	<b>Unique Needs of the Adopted Child**</b> Saturday, November 14 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Location: Community Church, N6717 Streblov Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54937
	<b>Health Risks During Pregnancy and Their Effects on Infants and Children**</b> Saturday, November 14 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM Location: Community Church, N6717 Streblov Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

# Adoptive Parent Education Registration Form

for families adopting through the State Special Needs program, or working with an agency other than Bethany Christian Services

Cost is \$25 per hour per couple (i.e. a three hour workshop is \$75 per couple).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption Program/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Child Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop(s) Planning to Attend	Date	Cost
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Payment is enclosed. Make checks payable to Bethany Christian Services. Include workshop in memo.

Return registration and payment to: Danielle Nelson, MSW  
Bethany Christian Services  
N14W23755 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 265  
Waukesha, WI 53188