



Department of Job and
Family Services
Division of Children Services

CONTENTS

What is Attachment Disorder?	2
Encouraging Attachment	2
PASSS Program	3
Information & Resources	3
Featured Child Waiting for Adoption	4

ADOPTION ADVOCATE MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quarterly newsletters that target community and agency services that are available to the adoptive family.

Published by:
**Montgomery County
Job and Family Services
Division of Children Services**
Haines Children's Center
3304 N. Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45405
(937) 224-KIDS (5437)

Helen E. Jones-Kelley,
Director

Janice White, Editor
Kathy Richardson,
Assistant Editor

Editorial contributions,
calendar of events, and
comments can be directed
to Adoption Advocate Editor,
(937) 276-1723
www.montcsb.org

Adoption Advocate

ISSUE 1

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2006

Tips for the First Years of Adoptive Placement

SPEND AMPLE TIME IN NURTURING ACTIVITIES

The most significant process of the first year of adoption is creating a trust relationship. Intentional and ample nurturing promotes this goal.

Restrict your hours away from the child. Do not leave your child for overnight trips during the first year.

Meet your child's needs in a very sensitive manner. Feed on demand. Respond quickly to fussing. Allow the child to regress, bottle-feeding, rocking to sleep, and being carried.

Let your child experience you as the safe person who is sensitively meeting their needs.

Tip #1



Play little games that promote eye contact, like peek-a-boo

and hide-and-seek. Make positive associations between yourself and food. Rather than children becoming more dependent through this extra nurturing, they become trusting.

Anxious people do not know who they can trust to help them. More secure individuals understand that they do not have to be perfect and that they can rely on others.

Children who do not learn to depend on others tend to be anxious or emotionally constricted.

Their "independence" is a false one, meaning they do not trust others and can only rely on themselves. The child who has learned a healthy dependence is more secure in trying new things and venturing out. They always have a safe, home base to come back to—you!



Adoption Success Story

IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS

- Belief in adoption and an ability to commit
- Patience and perseverance
- Good sense of humor
- Talent for keeping life in perspective
- Love of children and parenting
- Ability to deal with rejection without taking it personally
- Ability to accept without judging
- Resourcefulness

Catherine, a special education teacher, called her husband, Stephen, from work to suggest adopting her favorite student. Stephen often accuses Catherine of "bringing her work home with her," and suggested that she not stop now. The result: the successful adoption of Sara.

Sara, now 12, has joined biological sons Christopher, 11, and Sean, 13, as an integral ingredient in their home. "Everything in our household is better because we have someone else to share it with," Stephen says.

The couple has advice for prospective adoptive parents. "Accept who they are," Catherine says. Stephen adds, "Be open-minded and remember that the kids need the opportunity, adoption is a great experience."



What is Attachment Disorder?

Attachment is defined as the affectional tie between two people. It begins with the bond between the infant and mother. This bond becomes internally representative of how the child will form relationships with the world. Attachment Disorder is defined as the condition in which individuals have difficulty forming lasting relationships. They often show a complete lack of ability to be genuinely

affectionate with others. They typically fail to develop a conscience and do not learn to trust. They do not allow people to be in control of them due to this trust issue. This damage is done by being abused or physically or emotionally separated from one primary caregiver during the first 3 years of life. "If a child does not form a loving bond with the mother, he does not

develop an attachment to the rest of mankind. They do not think and feel like a normal person." At the core of the unattached is a deep-seated rage, far beyond normal anger. We all have some degree of rage, but the rage of psychopaths is that born of unfulfilled needs as infants. Incomprehensible pain is forever locked in their souls, because of the abandonment they felt as infants. There is

an inability to love or feel guilty. There is no conscience. Early diagnosis and intervention is key to treatment. One famous person with Attachment Disorder who did get help in time (in 1887!) and became one of greatest humanitarians is Helen Keller.

Source: Kathleen G. Moss, LCSW, ACSW
For more information:
<http://www.attachment.org/rad.htm>



Heart's Baby

Some first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different color hair than the other family members.

One child suggested that the little boy was adopted.

Mary said, "I know all about adoptions because I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another student.

"It means," said Mary, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy."

Signs and Symptoms of Attachment

- Superficially engaging & charming
- Lack of eye contact on parents' terms
- Indiscriminately affectionate with strangers
- Not affectionate on parents' terms (not cuddly)
- Destructive to self, others and material things (accident prone)
- Cruelty to animals
- Lying about the obvious
- Stealing
- No impulse controls (frequently acts hyperactive)
- Learning lags
- Lack of cause and effect thinking
- Lack of conscience
- Abnormal eating patterns
- Poor peer relationships
- Preoccupation with fire
- Preoccupation with blood & gore
- Persistent nonsense questions & chatter
- Inappropriately demanding & clingy
- Abnormal speech patterns
- Triangulation of adults
- False allegations of abuse
- Presumptive entitlement issues
- Parents appear hostile and angry

Source: Kathleen G. Moss, LCSW, ACSW
For more information:
<http://www.attachment.org/rad.htm>

Encouraging Attachment

- If your child is young, and not too heavy, carry them everywhere with you in a "snuggly." Turn them so they are facing you.
- Rub lotion onto child's hands, feet, arms, or legs.
- If your child is older, pick them up for BIG hugs, to carry them to bed, to be consoled, etc.
- Push that Button. Gently press on the child's nose, ear, finger, toe, chin, etc. and make a noise such as "honk", "beep", or "toot." Then have child copy your actions.
- Make a super big deal about your child's scrapes and hurts.
- When they are in pain, it's a great opportunity, through your comforting, to build the bond between you.
- Blow raspberries on child's arm, leg, belly, cheek.
- Give hugs and kisses, even if your child protests. If they seem extremely uncomfortable with hugs and kisses, alternate pats on the shoulder, ruffling their hair, or tickling them, between the hugs and kisses.
- Take turns drawing pictures or letters of the alphabet on each other's back and guessing the letters.
- Rock your child in a rocking chair. Sing or hum, or just be quiet together.
- Comb your child's hair, especially after they have taken a bath or shower. Face your child while doing this, commenting on the texture, color, etc.
- Stick notes, special treats, or heart-covered napkins in their lunch bag.
- Put a funny cuddly toy under your child's pillow for them to find when they go to bed.
- Playing with clay or shaving cream together to make shapes.

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)

The PASSS program was designed by the State of Ohio to meet the special needs of adoptive children when they are not covered by any other subsidy or funding source.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- (1) A child must have a physical/developmental handicap or mental/emotional condition that either:
 - (a) Existed before the adoption petition was filed;
 - (b) Developed after the adoption petition was filed and can be directly attributed to factors in the child's pre-adoption background.
- (2) The child must also meet one of the following requirements:
 - (a) The child is under the age of eighteen; or
 - (b) The child is less than twenty-one years of age and is mentally or physically handicapped.
- (3) Other financial sources are inadequate to meet the child's immediate needs.
- (4) A child that resides in the county in which the application is made.
- (5) A child that has been adopted by someone other than a stepparent.

MAXIMUM FUNDING

A maximum of \$10,000 shall be encumbered for any one child in one year. The adoptive parent or parents who receive PASSS funds shall pay at least 5% of the total cost of all services provided to the child. The PCSA may waive the 5% requirement if the gross income of the child's adoptive family is not more than 200% the federal poverty guideline.

SERVICES FUNDED

- (1) Medical and surgical services, which may include respite care if determined to be medically necessary by a qualified professional.
- (2) Psychiatric, psychological, and counseling services, if required by psychiatric, psychological or counseling needs.
- (3) Residential treatment services if required by psychiatric, psychological or counseling needs and approved by a qualified professional.

SERVICES NOT FUNDED

Educational services such as tuition and tutoring; dental and orthodontia services; medical-psychological co-payments, prescriptions or insurance deductibles; camp and any recreational services; travel-related expenses; computer equipment, including software; childcare services. Services to a child for whom a parent-child relationship does not exist.

WHERE TO APPLY:

Applications may be made through the public children services agency in the county in which you reside.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Janice White
(937) 276-1723

Kathey Richardson
(937) 276-6536

PASSS UPDATES

- PASSS BEGINS A NEW FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2006
- APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL DISORDERS GAINS NOTICE

At a March 21, 2006 Congressional briefing, the National Association for Children's Behavioral Health and the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems released recommendations for Congress to consider when looking at the role of Medicaid services for children and youth facing emotional or substance use disorders.

Medicaid-funded services address lasting physical and mental health concerns that are not typically covered under Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance. Some of these services include targeted case management (TCM), rehabilitative services, and psychiatric services that are provided in residential facilities.

The organizations' recommendations to Congress include increased availability for early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment; protecting services of TCM; securing Medicaid rehabilitation options; and advancing available Medicaid-funded 24-hour psychiatric services for those who are under age 21.

RESOURCES

www.montcsb.org
 www.adoptionnetwork.com
 www.achildswaiting.com
 www.events.adoption.com
 www.attach.org
 www.applewoodcenters.org
 Medicaid Providers
 (800) 324-8680

SUPPORT GROUP

Every Friday from 7:00pm-10:00pm,
6000 Philadelphia Drive.

This support group is for current and prospective adoptive parents, especially for those who have adopted or want to adopt special-needs children from public foster care agencies within Ohio or in other U.S. states. The support group is open to all families. For additional information, please contact Patricia Hill at (937) 277-6101.

YOUTH CORNER

Where Adoptive Youth Can Share Ideas and Information

**This angel once flew so high,
 That she now watches her life pass her by.
 Now she walks with broken wings,
 She has nothing, but needs only one thing.
 She chokes on the words that were never said,
 She lives off the memories left in her head.
 This fallen angel needs only one thing,
 To fly and recover her wings.**



**Written by Shirley "Pumpkin" - age 14,
 previously in Foster Care**

Children Looking For Loving Parents



ANESSA, AGE 15

Anessa is outgoing and loves to be around people. Anessa has a kind heart and is always thinking of others. For more information contact Todd Pierce at 276-1661.



BOBBY, AGE 16

Bobby is artistic and creative. He needs individualized attention and support to help him deal with issues of separation and loss. For more information contact Sonia Tillman at 276-1659.



RACHAEL AGE 11

Rachael is a very fun, active and outgoing child She is a good student and well adjusted in school. For more information contact Sonia Tillman at 276-1659.

PROTECTING CHILDREN, PROMOTING FAMILIES

**ADOPTION ADVOCATE
NEWSLETTER**



**MONTGOMERY
COUNTY**

**Department of Job and
Family Services
Division of Children Services
Haines Children's Center
3304 N. Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45405
(937) 224-KIDS (5437)**

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dayton, Ohio
Permit No. 548