



# Matching Assistance Program



A Family For Every Child

"Adopting one child won't change the world:  
but for that child, the world will change."



## AFFEC Adoption Agency: Serving Oregon & Washington Families

# Matching Assistance Program Newsletter

January 2016

## Join Our Free Matching Assistance Program!

If you are living in Oregon or Washington and are considering adoption, now is the time to contact A Family for Every Child's Adoption Agency! We are an all-inclusive, full-service agency whose goal is to reduce the barriers to adoption by providing excellent customer service, while keeping the process low-cost. We can set your family up with an informative orientation meeting, complete an adoption home study, oversee placement, provide post-placement services, and provide **support** during the entire adoption process.



If you are a home study-approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, sign up for our FREE Matching Assistance Program using MAP Express! With our new registration form, families can quickly and easily sign up for the Matching Assistance Program.

Our goal is to work alongside families nationwide, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance, and support during the submission and waiting process. As a member of Matching Assistance you will enjoy many benefits, including:

- **Submit your home study** for thousands of nationwide waiting children on our site, with the guarantee that your home study is sent directly to a child's caseworker.
- **Caseworker contact information** post-submission for certain states, allowing you to follow up on your submissions
- **Recruitment services** that connect your family with a child's caseworker.
- **Suggested child matches** via email, with a link to submit your home study
- A private online **support group** to connect with other waiting MAP families
- Low fee **Additional Services Program** with an Adoption Specialist
- Access to **helpful resources** on a variety of adoption topics

[Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help grow your family through adoption!

[And more!](#)

**Create a Free MAP for  
Adoption Professionals  
Account!**

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

If you are a family adoption worker or a child social worker, and have not created a MAP for Adoption

## Trauma-Informed Parenting

### What is Trauma-Informed Parenting?

Trauma-informed parenting is based around how a child's trauma history effects their development (physical, mental, social), their emotions, and

Professionals account, we encourage you to create a free account today!

Our **MAP for Adoption Workers** account allows you to quickly submit a family's home study, recommend children to a family, view a family's recent child inquiries, private message a child's social worker, and more.

Our **MAP for Social Workers** account allows you to quickly list children and update their recruitment status, search for home study-approved families, private message a family and/or their adoption worker, request child recruitment services, and more.

[Create a free MAP for Adoption Professionals Account!](#)

**Adoption Specialist Volunteers & Interns Needed!**

We are seeking motivated volunteers and interns in Eugene, Oregon to assist with our Additional Services Program! As an Adoption Specialist you will work with a small caseload of families, sending them monthly child searches, following up on child submissions, assisting with home study submissions, and providing

their behaviors. When a caregiver practices trauma-informed parenting, they are looking at their child's needs and behaviors through a "trauma lens". In other words, they are recognizing trauma's impact on their child, and changing their approach to accommodate for this impact.

### What is trauma?

Trauma can cause an overwhelming feeling of terror, anxiety, and sadness in a child. Trauma is often an event that threatens the life or physical well-being of a child, or of someone they love and care about. Physical and sexual abuse, and neglect are all types of trauma that children in foster care may have endured or witnessed at some point in their life. Oftentimes their trauma is categorized as "chronic trauma" - the experience of multiple traumatic events.

### How does trauma affect a child?

Trauma's effects start with the brain. A brain that is constantly responding to perceived threats is wired for survival. Children who are perpetually in this survival mode are stuck in what is referred to as "primitive brain", meaning they cannot grasp abstract concepts. The stress hormone cortisol also has an impact on a brain's development, and can negatively affect a child's cortex and higher brain development. Cortisol also interferes with a child's ability to learn and memorize things. In turn, these changes to a child's developing brain influence their emotional, social, and behavioral responses.

### What are the features of trauma-informed parenting?

Per the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), there are nine key elements of trauma-informed parenting:

- **Recognizing the impact of trauma on your child** - Viewing your child's behaviors and emotions through a "trauma lens" can help you (and ultimately your child) understand their reactions
- **Helping your child feel safe** - Creating a physically safe environment for your child will overtime allow them to feel safe psychologically.
- **Helping your child understand and manage their emotions** - Children who have experienced trauma have a lot of feelings and emotions, but may not know how to label them or properly express them. Helping your child put labels on their feelings and modeling proper expression can help them process these intense emotions of anger, grief, fear, and loss.
- **Helping your child understand and change behavior problems** - Looking through the trauma lens with your child, help them make the connection between their emotions and behaviors.
- **Support positive, stable relationships in your child's life** - Positive, stable relationships are key in helping a child heal from past trauma. Making and maintaining these key connections can help your child learn to trust and eventually heal.
- **Assist your child in developing a strength-based understanding of their life story** - Help your child put their trauma in perspective and recognize that they are not "bad" people who did something wrong. Listen to their story, validate their feelings, and build up their feeling of self-worth.
- **Advocating for your child** - As a child's foster or adoptive parent you will become their number one advocate. As a member of their

support and guidance as needed.

Desired qualifications include:

- Customer service experience
- Computer skills with proficiency in Microsoft Word and the Internet
- The ability to work with minimal supervision while completing work in a timely manner
- Excellent verbal and written skills with the ability to communicate across diverse populations
- The ability to provide support, empathy and resources to adoptive families
- Three-month minimum commitment

Training will be provided. Contact the [Matching Assistance Director](#) for more information.

### Register for Online Matching Events!

A Family for Every Child offers two different online matching events:

**Child Matching Events** - Caseworkers present children on their caseload to home study-approved families. Families can ask the caseworkers questions,

"team", be sure to speak up and voice your thoughts and opinions on your child's treatment plan and what you believe they need to succeed. When your child sees you standing up for them, this helps them build trust.

- **Seeking out trauma-focused treatments** - Children who have experienced trauma have a unique set of challenges that need to be addressed by professionals who understand trauma's impact on a child's development and behaviors. Without this understanding, a child may be misdiagnosed or receive the wrong treatment that does not promote healing.
- **Practicing self-care** - You cannot care for your child if you do not also take care of yourself. Caring for a traumatized child is hard work, and is exhausting both physically and emotionally. Take time out of your day to allow yourself a break, and reach out for support and help as you need it.

## Trauma-Informed Parenting Resources

**Adoption Advocate** - [Creating Trauma-Informed Classrooms](#)

**American Academy of Pediatrics** - [Parenting After Trauma: Understanding Your Child's Needs](#)

**Attachment and Trauma Network, Inc.** - [Therapeutic Parenting](#)

**Child Welfare Information Gateway** - [Trauma-Informed Practice](#)

**Heather Forbes, LCSW** - [Going Beyond the Behaviors: How to Heal From the Impact of Early Trauma](#)

**NCTSN** - [Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma](#)

**NCTSN** - [Complex Trauma Resources](#)

**NCTSN** - [Learning Center for Child and Adolescent Trauma](#)

**TED Talks** - [Nadine Burke Harris: How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime](#)

**Trauma Informed Oregon** - [Resources for Individuals and Families](#)

### MEET AUDRA & TIFFANY!

Our names are Audra and Tiffany! We would like to adopt a child between the ages of 3 and 10 years old. We are looking for children of the same ethnicity as ourselves, but are open to a mixed-ethnic child as well. We are open to a girl or a sibling group of 2 girls.

and submit their home study after the event is over.

**Family Matching Events -**

Families present themselves to listening caseworkers, who can ask the family questions. After the event is over, caseworkers can request the home studies of families for specific children on their caseload.

Learn more about our online matching events and register for upcoming events [here!](#)

**November/December Matches & Placements!**

Congratulations to the following Matching Assistance families who were matched or placed in November and December:

- S & Q matched with an out of state sibling group on our site
- A & N matched with an out of state child
- H & M placed with an out of state child
- Y & D matched with an in-state child
- P & C matched with an out of state sibling group on our site
- H & M placed with an



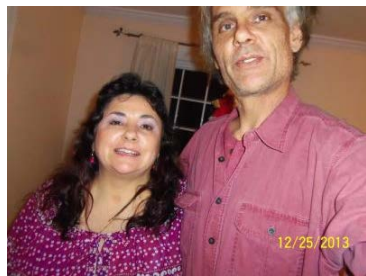
**Audra & Tiffany  
Washington**

We enjoy crafting, reading, playing with our deaf Persian cat Dexter, going to the movies, hanging out with friends and taking walks around the local lake. Audra works from home and has a very flexible work schedule. She plans on being a stay at home mom for the first few months to help our kid(s) adjust to a new home. Tiffany is a joint partner at a law firm. We live in Seattle, Washington. We live only 4 blocks away from a park so would be able to walk or bike there often. There is pretty much any activity a child may want to participate in within a 10 minute drive.

Audra has an extensive history with childcare. Spending summers in college being a nanny, as well as working in childcare at a local gym. She comes from a large family with over 20 cousins and has helped babysit and spend a lot of time with almost all of them as she is one of the oldest. Tiffany is the youngest in a small family, but is no stranger to children after spending lots of time with her second cousins. Together they have spent a lot of time together with their 5 year old niece Alexis who they love to pieces.

We want to be parents and feel that we have the space in our home and our hearts for a child. [Learn more about Audra and Tiffany!](#)

**MEET COLLEEN AND RICHARD**



**Colleen & Richard  
New York**

We are Colleen and Richard (Dick). We would like to adopt a girl between the ages of 6 and 13. We are open to a child of Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, biracial or mixed race. Dick likes to build, fix and remodel the house. He also likes to fix cars, swim, cook, garden, play the piano, sing(a lot!) and work in the yard. Colleen likes to clean, organize, walk, run errands, shop, do aerobics, sing, crafting and decorating

for the holidays, swim, go to the recreation center, read, do word search puzzles, teach kids to read, write and spell.

We live in upstate New York. Close to where we live are two amusement parks and water parks. There are tennis courts, basketball courts, football and baseball fields, nature trails and canal trails for walking, hiking, biking, and fishing. We have outside bands and movies at the local park. We have a drive-in-theater, kids museum and science center, skating and sledding park, roller skating and bouncy house park. Our school district is ranked in the top two percent in the state. Our middle school has an arts program and robotics. Our high school has a trade school available.

out of state sibling  
group

- L. J. matched with an out of state child on our site
- K & E matched with an out of state sibling group on our site
- K & S matched with an in-state child
- M & M placed with an out of state child
- A & D matched with an out of state child
- D & M matched with an out of state sibling group
- C & C matched with an out of state sibling group on our site
- A & W matched with an out of state child
- G & D placed with an in-state child
- C & S placed with an in-state child
- E & L matched with an out of state child
- S & D placed with an in-state child
- C & J placed with an in-state child
- C & M matched with an out of state child on our site
- P.K. matched with an in-state child

We do not have any children of our own yet. We were Therapeutic Foster Parents for a 13 year old girl. Colleen has years of experience in childcare. She worked in daycare for fifteen years, was a nanny for eight years, worked for the recreation department for eight years, and taught dance class out of fifty daycare's in their city.

We understand parenthood is a great joy and tremendous challenge, but we have been preparing for adoption and both want to have a family. [Learn more about Colleen and Richard!](#)



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