



## A Family for Every Child

### Matching Assistance Program

*Family Matching Made Easy*



**AFFEC Adoption Agency:  
Serving Oregon &  
Washington Families;**

## Matching Assistance Program Newsletter

September 2016

### Join Our Free Matching Assistance Program!



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

**And more!**

**Sign up** today to take full advantage of our free 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.

**Contact us today** to find out how we can help grow your family through adoption!

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

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

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## Back-to-School Transitions

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,



The first day of school produces mixed emotions in both children and parents. If your child has special needs that stem from adoption and/or trauma-related issues, starting the school year can bring unique challenges. Learning new routines, explaining your child's needs to a new teacher, maybe starting at a new school - the list goes on. Luckily, Heather Forbes has some great ideas to make the back-to-school transition smoother for everyone in her latest blog post. Some of her tips include:

- **Advocate for your child.** It can be uncomfortable discussing your child's needs with someone you don't know, but it's so important that your child's teacher and school principal are aware that your child's behaviors come from a place of hurt. Teachers are already overwhelmed with numerous children to look after, so offer to provide them with materials from organizations like NCTSN to educate themselves on trauma-related issues and behaviors. Approach your child's teacher with a team mentality - you are in this together, and if your child has a positive classroom experience he/she will be more successful. Also, if your child sees you standing up for him/her, he/she will learn to trust you. It will make them feel good to know they have someone looking out for them.
- **Understand transitions are difficult.** Transitions bring change, and change is very scary to a foster or adopted child. They often associate change with something negative. It also means they are not in control, and in their mind losing control is a threat to their survival. Validate your child's fears, and let them know you understand change is scary and that they may be feeling overwhelmed. Tell your child (and then show them!) that you are there to help and support them every step of the way. Working with your child to process their feelings can help make a transition smoother. Do what you can to talk your child through each transition, and prepare them for what is coming next.
- **Give your child the tools to succeed.** Teach your child self-regulation techniques, like breathing when they are overwhelmed, stressed, or scared. Help them identify where the stress starts - their stomach, head, or chest. When they are in tune with their bodies, they can identify the feeling of being overwhelmed and address it. Help them identify external resources as well, such as people in the school they can reach out to when they need to connect - a teacher, the school counselor, the school nurse, or a coach. Your child needs someone at school they can reach out to if they are not able to get in touch with you.

For more back-to-school suggestions, visit [Heather Forbes' blog](#).

## Back-to-School Resources

Adoption.com - [10 Things to Do Before Sending a Foster or Adopted Child Back to School](#)

and providing 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

*Adoption Today* - [Talking to Teachers About Adoption](#)

*Center for Parent Information and Resources* - [All About the IEP](#)

*Coalition for Children, Youth and Families* - [Preparing for Your Child to Go to School](#)

*Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center* - [Helping Achieve School Success](#)

*Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center* - [Helping Kids in Care Change Schools](#)

*IFAPA* - [Educators Making a Difference for Students: Adoption, Foster Care, and Kinship Care in the School Setting](#)

*MN Adopt* - [Addressing School Refusal Behavior](#)

*National Association of School Psychologists* - [Back to School Transitions: Tips for Parents](#)

*NCTSN* - [Back to School Resources for School Personnel](#)

*NCTSN* - [Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators](#)

*Rage Against the Minivan* - [How to talk to teachers about adoption-related issues](#)



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## Save the Date!



Save the date for our annual Home for the Holiday's Event!  
The event will be held at Valley River Inn on November 10th, 2016 from 5:30-9:30pm. RSVP here and join us as we celebrate 10 years as an organization helping

the caseworkers questions, 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](#)!

### **August Matches & Placements!**

Congratulations to the following Matching Assistance families who were matched or placed in August:

- B & J matched with an out of state sibling group on our site;
- Y & D matched with an out of state child on our site;
- A & K matched with an out of state child on our site;
- A & A matched with an in-state sibling group;
- D & R matched with an in-state sibling group;
- L & M matched with an in-state child;
- A & T matched with an in-state child;

foster children find their forever families.

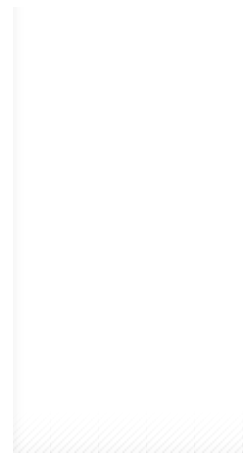


MEET JEFF, LAURA, OLIVIA AND SOPHIE

We are Jeff, Laura, Olivia and Sophie. Our love for each other continues to grow and we are each other's best friends. We want to extend our love by expanding our family. I am now a stay a home Mom, but worked for a non-profit organization that focused on education for kid's k-12 grade for 21 years. Jeff was an Elementary School Principal with many years of experience. Also, Jeff was an Elementary School Teacher. He now works part-time at the St. Norbert College Library. Laura is a stay at home mom. We feel the key to success is our families and friends. We both come from close-knit families. Jeff was raised in South Milwaukee. Jeff has 4 children from a previous marriage. Laura was raised in De Pere, WI and comes from a large family of 7 children. No matter how busy we are family always remains a priority. We often get together with our extended families. We have nieces and nephews of various ages who provide love, laughter, encouragement and guidance. This strong family relationship is why we want to share our love for each other with new children. We have a very nice large home. We have a nice backyard for kids to run and play. We chose this community because it is a safe environment and a great area to raise a family. Many of my friends left the area years ago but moved back here because of that! Laura and Jeff share many interests; Spending time with family and friends, love of music, concerts, art museums, antiquing and the outdoors. We feel that staying active, being happy and having a positive outlook is essential to good health. Jeff loves playing golf and working out at the gym. Jeff is very active with our children's events and has coached basketball for fifth graders. Laura loves baking, landscaping around the house, interior decorating and the performing arts. Travel is another one of our common interest. We both have traveled throughout the U.S. Our travels have taught us a lot about the world and people. We both have outgoing personalities and are self-assured in social situations. We both make friends easily and have a natural talent for putting people at ease. We feel humor is an essential part of life and we can laugh at ourselves as much as we laugh with others. We value education and enjoy

watching children grow, discover and develop.

- S.H. matched with an out of state child
- B.R. matched with an in-state child
- R & M matched with a child;
- S & B placed with an out of state child;



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A Family For Every Child , 1675 W 11th Avenue , Eugene , OR 97402