

A Family For Every Child Adoption Agency



"Adoption is not about finding children for families, it's about finding families for children"



To Have and To Hold



Calling All Princesses!!!

Are you ready for the royal tea party? Our annual Princess For A Day event is quickly approaching!! Mark your calendar for

March 26, 2017

Princess for a day is a special occasion where girls (both in foster care and the general community) can go and enjoy the royal treatment for a day. The 'Royal Treatment' includes:

- Selecting a gown, shoes, and crown (to keep)
- Getting hair and nails done
- Taking (and receiving) a photo of each princess
- Attend a tea party
- (don't forget your royal guest, parent/guardian)

Foster children are admitted for free and general admission is only \$50.00 per child. Everyone is

While Teri Henick was waiting to adopt her newborn daughter, she faced one of the fears most common to adoptive parents - would she be able to bond with this baby?

"I was extremely concerned about it," she remembers. "Would I be able to love a person as much as I would had she come from me? What if there was no connection between us?" But Teri needn't have worried - after a few days of parenting her daughter, the connection was there. "I held her close, and adored the feeling of her tiny body resting on my bare chest. I sang, talked, and cooed to her at her feedings. These moments helped shape us into a family."

Many of the techniques Teri knew intuitively

welcome at this community event which celebrates each child. It is important to know that due to limited spacing each child is only permitted one guest at this magical event.

If you would like to donate to this event, please feel free to contact [Jessica](#) for more information and discuss how you can help!! We couldn't do this without each of you and your support!!

THANK YOU!!

A Family For Every Child Mission

A Family for Every Child is dedicated to finding loving, permanent families for every waiting foster child.

A Family For Every Child, a nonprofit organization, was started by Christy Obie-Barrett and dozens of dedicated and passionate volunteers. In 2006, AFFEC was formed and developed into an organization focused on finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for all waiting children. Our intention is to develop programs that assist special-needs/challenging-to-place foster children in finding their own Forever Families.

- See more [here](#).

The Foster Care Adoption Process

There are two types of children in foster care - those who are temporarily in custody and will likely be reunified with their family, and those who are likely to have parental rights terminated, and become eligible for adoption. There are also some children who are already eligible for adoption; for the most part, they tend to be older.

Most often, children enter the foster system because of abuse, neglect, or mental health or addiction problems in their original homes. As the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption found in their 2013 National Foster Care Adoption Attitudes Survey, there is still the widespread misconception that children who enter foster care are "juvenile delinquents," but that is not

to use - holding her baby against bare skin, interacting with her during feedings, and cuddling her for hours - are major components of attachment parenting, a hands-on, responsive philosophy espoused by experts like California pediatrician William Sears, M.D.

Attachment parenting is becoming an extremely popular parenting style in the U.S. - and it's a philosophy that's especially well-suited to parenting an adopted child.

Attachment parenting is about being in touch with your child's needs. Parents minimize time away from their child, and carry him or her constantly in a sling. Breastfeeding is encouraged through the toddler years, and attachment-parenting advocates employ the "family bed," in which babies and parents sleep together.

"Mother Nature has programmed us to know what our babies' needs are, and to be able to meet them," says Jan Hunt, psychotherapist and author of *Natural Child: Parenting from the Heart*. "We fool ourselves into thinking that [modern parenting techniques] must be better because they are new. But our babies are still in the Stone Age, and they have Stone Age needs."

Whether your child's age is measured in hours or years, attachment parenting can be adapted to fit his needs. Here's how.

Prepare for your child's arrival

Get ready in every way possible before you meet your child. Check out books and Web sites geared toward attachment parenting, and make sure you have everything you need - whether it's a baby sling or a well-stocked refrigerator to avoid post-placement grocery shopping - before your child arrives. For some adoptive parents, getting ready includes learning more about bonding and

the case. Children enter the foster care system through no fault of their own.

Common Misconceptions

Some prospective parents shy away from foster adoption because of misunderstandings about the type of children in the system. These are the most common misconceptions:

All foster children are special needs: Special needs can mean anything from over age three to a race, ethnicity, or language that makes a child more difficult to place. Needing to be placed with a sibling group is considered a special need. A mental, physical, emotional, or medical disability certified by a licensed professional is a special need. Learn more about the child to determine which label applies and take advantage of all the pre- and post-placement services that are available.

All foster children carry "baggage": All children need love, nurturing, patience, and stability. Children in the foster system may have scars from past experiences, but, when given the opportunity to thrive, they will.

How Should I Get Started?

Once you've made the decision to check into adoption you will need to contact an agency licensed in your state about completing your adoption home study. Choosing the right agency will make a difference in your adoption journey.

We are happy to help you any way we can. You can start by completing our Inquiry Form [by clicking here](#).

Once we receive your form we will contact you by phone and email to answer questions and schedule an orientation meeting.

In the orientation meeting you will be given a basic understanding of many issues including attachment, separation, loss, grief, trauma, cultural and ethnic identity, the importance of birth parents, the adoption process, background checks, and family selection and matching processes.

baby care. "My biggest fear of adoption while I was waiting was whether I could bond with an adopted child as closely as with a [biological] child," says Jennifer McNabola, an adoptive mother in Arlington Heights, Illinois. "To help myself overcome that fear, I went to adoptive parent panels to hear them tell their stories. They reassured me that bonding could be very strong with an adoptive child."

Nourish your child

Breastfeeding is a cornerstone of attachment parenting, so some adoptive mothers opt to breastfeed, utilizing breast pumps and hormones to induce lactation, and a supplemental feeding system to provide more nourishment. "With our first adoption, I attempted to induce lactation," says Shauna Pittman, adoptive mother of three.

"I pumped prior to our anticipated arrival date and drank fenugreek tea to try to prepare my body. On arrival home from the hospital, our first feeding with the supplemental nursing system was wonderful! Over the next few weeks, my son and I struggled with what I called the 'contraption.' But our pediatrician wasn't very supportive of nursing, and when my son didn't gain weight as quickly as she expected, I used bottles. Still, I have never regretted my attempts to nurse him, and I think it helped the two of us to bond."

If breastfeeding isn't an option, feedings can still nurture your attachment. "My husband and I always held our son close in our arms or on our laps when giving him a bottle. We gazed into his eyes, speaking softly and lovingly to him," says Pam Reeves, an adoptive mother in Dallas.

"Even after he could hold the bottle himself, we continued our feeding ritual. He let us know that he treasured this time by pushing one of us onto a seat and climbing up on that

At AFFEC we are dedicated to assisting families in growing their family through adoption, and assisting children in finding their 'forever family' through adoption.

If you would like more information please reach out to our Adoption Agency Director, Kim Esser at 541-343-2856 or by email at kim@afamilyforeverychild.org.

Proudly assisting families and children for
10 years

person's lap to snuggle himself into position. Eight years later, I remember that precious time and I believe our feeding ritual was a primary factor in establishing the very strong bond that we have today." Make mealtimes a family activity and make touching, holding, and hugging your children normal occurrences in your home.

Read the full article [by clicking here](#)

If you would like more information on adoption Please email [***kim@afamilyforeverychild.org***](mailto:kim@afamilyforeverychild.org) today for more information on how you can learn more about adopting!

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