

REACH Fresno

Resource Education Advocacy Crisis Intervention Hope

Aspiranet and State of California Post-Adoption Support



Love is Funny

February 2010

“We are all a little weird and life’s a little weird, and when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love.”

-Anonymous

In honor of Valentine’s Day, I chose the above words, which help describe that unique phenomena we refer to as “love”. If anything, it should bring a sense of lightness and humor to the topic! For those of you who share a loving relationship, it goes without saying that along with a good sense of humor, an understanding nature, ability to compromise and strong communication skills are keys to our success. Secondly, our ability to model positive, respectful and caring relationships with others is a priceless gift we offer the children in our home.

Other gifts may include:

- ♥ The gift of listening
- ♥ The gift of affection
- ♥ The gift of laughter
- ♥ The gift of a written note
- ♥ The gift of a compliment
- ♥ The gift of a favor
- ♥ The gift of a cheerful disposition.

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For those of you who plan to attend the upcoming support groups in February, we’ll set aside time to make Valentine Cards (I’ll provide all the supplies). As always, our groups are open and we welcome all new attendees. Please contact me if these groups, or any other services provided by REACH are of interest.

Sincerely,

Kathy A. Steele, L.C.S.W.
REACH Coordinator

(559) 222-4969 • ksteele@aspiranet.org

Book Reviews...

Swings Hanging From Every Tree

Author: Susan Stone

Cost: \$14.95

We all want to hear just the right words, words to bring confidence, a sense of calm, a smile or even laughter. This book contains those words of advice, validation, blessing and grace that we all need. This sensitive collection of encouraging and inspirational experiences is from and for foster and adoptive parents and also for those who care for them and their families.

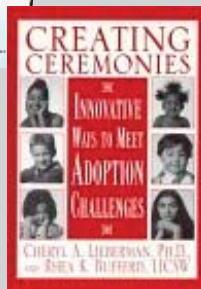


Creating Ceremonies: Innovative Ways to Meet Adoption Challenges

Author: Cheryl A. Lieberman, Ph.D. and Rhea K. Bufferd, LCSW

Cost: \$24.95

Ceremonies and rituals help us to cope with the day-to-day changes and challenges of life. CREATING CEREMONIES covers the complete spectrum of adoption life-cycle phases, from pre-adoption to moving in, from adjustment to finalization and beyond. The ceremonies within provide an appropriate way to say goodbye and to welcome home, to celebrate transitions and to grieve losses, to acknowledge fears and to encourage learning.



Young Artists



Drawing from Alyssa, age 15, who wanted to submit her interpretation of a Valentine scene.

Alyssa 15

REACH

Educational/Support Group Meetings

**Free Childcare is available.
Must call in advance to RSVP
(559) 222-4969**

Kings County

REACH Parenting Meeting
Monday, February 8th
5:30–7:30 pm
Hanford Family Connections
315 Lacey Blvd
Hanford, CA
(Between Burger King/McDonald's on Lacey)

Madera County

REACH Parent Meeting
Monday, February 22nd
5:30–7:30pm
First 5 Family Resource Center
525 E. Yosemite, Madera
(Yosemite/Lake St)

Madera County (Oakhurst Site)

REACH Parent Meeting
Monday, March 15th
5:30–7:30 pm
Sierra Telephone Parkway Bldg.
40033 Sierra Way
Oakhurst, CA

Online Resources

Adoption Tax Credit Info
www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html

Low-cost, online training
www.fosterparents.com

How to talk with kids about adoption
<http://www.parenthood.com>

Grandparent Information Center
www.aarp.org/grandparents

'Ain't Misbehavin': Discipline & the
Adopted Child
www.adoptionlearningpartners.org

Community Classes

Kings County

For additional information regarding the classes listed below please contact Linda Paredez, Director, Foster Care Education at (559) 737-4842 or lindap@cos.edu.

Childhood Lying, Stealing & Manipulation

Monday, February 1st & 8th
6:00 – 9:00pm
C.O.S. John Muir 201

Reframing Discipline

Thursday, February 4th & 11th
6:00–9:00pm
Kings Co. H.S.A. Room 141 A/B

Parenting Across Racial & Cultural Lines

Thursday, February 18th
6:00–9:00pm
Kings Co. H.S.A. Room 141 A/B

Sexually Abused Child

Tuesday, February 23rd
6:00–9:00pm
C.O.S. Tule 556 (1 of 3 part series)
Sessions continue March 2nd & 9th

Please note that Kings County will welcome eligible youth (adopted after age 14) to participate in their Independent Living Program (ILP). For those who are interested please contact the Coordinator: Kelly Avila MS,ED,CPS Social Services Practitioner, ILP coordinator at 559-582-3241 ext 4954



Fresno County

Fresno City College Foster/Kinship Care Education Training

(Includes Fresno & Madera)
Sue Shaw, FKCE Training
Coordinator (559) 442-8210 ext.
8355

Please contact Sue Shaw at FCC
for current classes.

Pre-Natal Exposure

Monday, February 8th
6:00–9:00pm
FCC SO – 110

Grandparents Group

2nd and 4th Monday of the month
10:00 to 11:30am
Exceptional Parents Unlimited,
Fresno

Come join our Grandparents Support Group. We have grandparents and great grandparents of children with special needs who have a lot of wisdom, experiences and knowledge to share. For more information call Kitty at 229-2000 x212

**Please note that AARP Foundation has a newsletter for Grandparents who provide care for their grandchildren.*

If you want to learn more, contact:
AARP Foundation Grandparent
Information Center (GIC)
601 E Street, NW
Washington, CD 20049
gic@aarp.org
1-888-OUR-AARP
www.aarp.org/grandparents

1320 E. Shaw #140
Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 222-4969
www.aspiranet.org



ASPIRAnet

Raising Hope. Empowering Community.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES AGENCY
S. Kimberly Belshe, Secretary

**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**
California Department of
Social Services,
Adoptions Services Bureau
Fresno Office:
770 E. Shaw #109
Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 243-8200
www.childsworld.ca.gov



REACH Fresno Post-Adoption Support Services

REACH Fresno offers services in both Madera and Kings Counties.

Monthly Education/Support Groups: Monthly meetings where families are able to receive education/training and meet other adoptive families in the community. Service hours are given.

Monthly REACH Newsletter: Monthly newsletters filled with adoption articles, local trainings, book reviews, online resources and more.

Local Resource Directory: The REACH Directories share about local services available in Madera and Kings Counties.

Educational Workshops and Trainings: A variety of trainings are offered in either Madera or Kings Counties for families and professionals.

REACH Library: The REACH Library is open and available for book review and checkouts during the monthly support groups or by appointment.

Case Management: Upon request, REACH clients can receive unlimited case management services.

Crisis Counseling: Families are eligible for up to six family sessions with an Adoption Clinical Trained (ACT) Mental Health Therapist, or therapist who is familiar with foster/adoption issues.