

Adoption Tax Credit Is Made Permanent

The legislation to avoid the fiscal cliff (the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012) included a provision that made the adoption tax credit permanent. This legislation did not, however, make the adoption credit refundable, so it will only benefit those adoptive families who have federal income tax liability. The maximum amount of the 2012 tax credit is \$12,650. The credit will begin to phase out for families with modified adjusted gross incomes above a certain level and will vanish for those with incomes above \$230,000.

For 2013 and beyond, the credit will remain flat for special needs adoptions, meaning that those who adopt children from the U.S. who receive adoption assistance can claim the maximum credit regardless of their expenses. For other adoptions (except for step-parent adoptions), parents can claim the credit based on their qualified adoption expenses.

Even though the credit isn't refundable for 2012, families who adopted in 2012 are encouraged to submit IRS Form 8839 ("Qualified Adoption Expenses") with their 2012 taxes even if they do not have tax liability. Although families will

not receive an adoption credit refund with their 2012 taxes, the credit can be carried forward up to five (5) additional years, and families might benefit later if either their tax situation changes or the credit is made refundable in the future. The IRS made the following recent announcement about filing for the adoption tax credit for 2012:

- ♦ Taxpayers claiming the adoption credit will not be able to file their return until late February or early March. An announcement will be placed on www.IRS.gov when the Service is able to process the form.
- ♦ Form 1040 federal tax return and Form 8839, "Qualified Adoption Expenses," must still be mailed to the IRS.
- ♦ Taxpayers must maintain supporting documentation when filing their return. They are not required to attach these documents to their return this year.

For additional information and updates, visit the ORPARC website at www.orparc.org, or visit NACAC's website at www.nacac.org. IRS information available at www.IRS.gov, type "Adoption Credit" in the Search box.

Voice for Adoption

SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN

2012 Adoptive Family Portrait Project

 www.voice-for-adoption.org 



In November, Voice for Adoption's (VFA) 2012 Adoptive Family Portrait Project once again celebrated families who have adopted children from foster care. This annual project raises awareness among members of Congress about the real experiences and needs of families adopting children who have spent time in the foster care system.

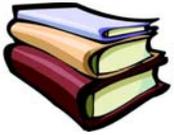


Seven participating families from Oregon shared their stories along with a family portrait. Each family was matched by VFA with a Senator or Representative from their home state or district. The portraits and stories were featured on display in the Capitol office of each family's respective Senator or Representative during November, National Adoption Month. This is the second year Oregon had full participation from all seven of our members of Congress.



Congratulations and thank you to these special families, and the Oregon legislators, who participated!





What's new in the ORPARC Library?



ORPARC would like to thank Barbara Stone of Washington County Department of Human Services, Child Welfare, for her charitable donation to the lending library! Barbara has generously contributed a number of diverse and interesting books that offer valuable perspectives on child development, parenting, attachment and raising daughters. Visit the "Lending Library" tab to download lists of library materials. Call us at 1-800-764-8367 or email orparc@nwresource.org with your library order. Non-return information packets can be ordered directly from the website.

<p>Attachment</p>					<p>Mental Health</p>
Books on Child Development					

		<p>Parenting</p>		
Books on General Parenting		Teenage Girls	Children's Materials	

National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections
Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College

Recently updated NRCPCF Hot Topics
Children Missing from Out-of-Home Care; Spirituality and Faith-Based Initiatives; and, Trauma-Informed Child Welfare. Visit the updated webpages at www.nrcpcf.org/is.hot_topics.html for a variety of resources from NRCPCF and other members of the Children's Bureau Network, and from collaborating organizations.

NRCPCF Information Packets
New NRCPCF Information Packets webpage for packets developed in 2011 and 2012 that address various child welfare topics at www.nrcpcf.org/is/information_packets.html. The purpose of each information packet is to provide an overview of a specific child welfare-related topic and to direct readers to relevant resources.

NRCPCF Teleconferences/Webinars & Webcasts
Updated 2011, 2012 and 2013 Teleconferences/Webinars and Webcasts webpages at www.nrcpcf.org/events/schedule.html.

Teen Camp → Save the Date!

Chosen International
presents

"Touched by Adoption"
TEEN CAMP
AUGUST 16-18, 2013
Camp Tadmor ~ Lebanon, OR

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION FORMS:
www.ChosenInternational.org

ORPARC Trainings

Visit www.orparc.org for updates

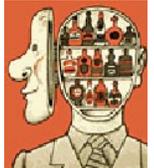
Trainings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids and alternative forms of written materials are available to persons with disabilities. Spanish language interpretation available upon request. Please request these services two weeks in advance.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Helping Higher-Level Thinking Skills (Executive Functioning)

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 in Oregon City

SESSION I: FASD from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. ♦ SESSION II: *Executive Functioning* from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Providence Willamette Falls Community Center ♦ 519 15th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045

SESSION I—Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Dr. Davies, a pediatrician from the longest-running FAS clinic in the country, will review the basics of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and examine the latest research, both on how the brain is affected by prenatal drinking, and promising avenues for intervention, including practical tips for supporting children affected by prenatal alcohol exposure.



SESSION II—Helping Higher-Level Thinking Skills (Executive Functioning): What can improve brain function? Many children with a history of prenatal exposures, stress/trauma, and foster care or adoption have learning difficulties, specifically problems with higher order learning – what we call “executive functioning.” There are now many programs that claim their systems and supplements improve executive skills. This workshop will review these programs and the evidence about whether or not they work, and outline a do-it-yourself way to approach these all-too-common struggles.

Registration

Register separately for each session at www.providence.org/classes, click on “online class catalog,” search by class name:

1. Session I..... *Swindells Speaker Event - FASD - Oregon City*
2. Session II..... *Swindells Speaker Event - Executive Function - Oregon City*

Information & Spanish Language Interpretation

For questions or Spanish language interpretation, contact Michael McGrorty at 1-800-764-8367, ext. 11 or email mmcgrorty@nwresource.org for general information or Spanish language interpretation

The Presenter: Dr. Davies, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington, co-directs the Center for Adoption Medicine and works at the longest-running FAS clinic in the country. His interest in foster care and adoption started in Russia where he started a summer arts and clown camp for Russian orphans. Dr. Davies has a pediatric practice where 2/3 of his patients were fostered or adopted. He has also created an award-winning online resource for pediatrics and adoption at www.adoptmed.org.



The above trainings are a collaboration between:



Continuing Education Units (CEUs): Register above with Providence, then contact ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or orparc@nwresource.org to request CEUs. Cost: 2.5 CEUs per session at \$15.00; 5.0 at \$25.00 for all-day. NWRA/Cascadia Training is a NBCC Approved Continuing Education Provider (Provider # 6575). This workshop is approved by the NASW, Washington State Chapter (recognized by Oregon State Chapter) for Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Mental Health Counselors. (Provider #1975-118).

Collaborative Problem Solving

Facing challenging situations with children & youth

and

My Child's Life Care Notebook and Organizer

Hermiston or Pendleton ♦ May or June 2013 ♦ 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (registration at 8:30 a.m.)

Site and date to be determined. Please check the ORPARC website for updates.

Registration will be available through the Providence system approximately one month prior to the training.

Visit www.providence.org/classes, click on “online class schedule,” and search for *Swindells Speaker Event - Hermiston*.

Survey on Adoption Transitions

You can Help!

Meeting adoptive parents and transitioning from prior caregivers into adoptive homes are some of the biggest experiences of children's lives. There is no research today to guide parents and professionals on how best to design these transitions. This survey, conducted by psychologist Dr. Redmond Reams is a first step. The goal is to describe and define what happens currently in transitions (<http://redmondreamsphd.com>).

Please visit the survey link below and take less than 10 minutes to complete this confidential and anonymous survey - help children in the future have better designed transitions into their adoptive families. Thank you.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K7TGZZR>



Newsletter via email?

If you would like to receive our newsletter and mailings via email, please call us or email orparc@nwresource.org with your name, address and email. Receiving the newsletter helps us curb our printing and mailing costs so that we can better serve families in other ways.

Grandparent Retreat

7th Annual Grandparents Raising

Grandchildren Retreat in Portland

Friday, May 17, 2011 ♦ 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

11560 SE Market Street, Portland, OR 97216

This **FREE** event provides educational workshops and a place for grandparents to gather together. The event is open to grandparents, and other relatives, age 55 and over, raising children age 18 and younger. Free lunch and door prizes offered. The event is sponsored by Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services' Family Caregiver Support Program. Please note that due to budget cuts, we are unable to offer childcare this year. For additional information, contact Loriann McNeill at 503-988-3620 ext. 26263 or loriann.mcneill@multco.us.