



## Openness in Adoption: *Making lifelong decisions about openness for your adopted child*

Adopted children, like all children, need to know who they are and where they came from. At the same time it is the role of adoptive parents to provide safety and protection to their children, especially when they may have had significantly traumatic pasts. This training will offer ways to balance a child's need to connect with their birth family and the need for safety. The trainer will review things to consider when making these lifelong decisions for (and with) your child as well as strategies to help make openness work. The training will offer a summary of common challenges and roadblocks with openness in child welfare adoptions. The goal is that participants will gain tools and ideas to provide a connection to their child's roots that work with their family system.

**Presenter:** Toni Ferguson, MSW, ORPARC Family Support Specialist  
Prior to joining ORPARC, Toni worked at Portland State University's Graduate School of Social Work and Child Welfare Partnership. She was instrumental in starting the Post Graduate Certificate Program in Therapy with Adoptive and Foster Families. Toni was also a member of the innovative Post Adoption Family therapist Team (PAFT) at DHS, where she provided highly specialized, intensive treatment services to adoptive families of special needs children. She has also worked as a school social worker for the Walla Walla School District.

**When:** Monday, September 20, 2010

**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Baker County Library  
2400 Resort Street  
Baker City, OR 97814

***Register by contacting ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367  
or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org)***

ORPARC trainings are free-of-charge to DHS/state adoptive, foster and assisted guardianship families, and DHS/SNAC adoption professionals. Others may attend trainings for minimal charge and/or on a space available basis. Reimbursement for childcare and travel expense are offered to ORPARC eligible families as funds allow; please request childcare and travel reimbursement upon registration. Trainings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids and alternative forms of written materials are available to persons with disabilities. Foreign language interpretation is available upon request. Request these services two weeks in advance.