

# Open Arms Adoption Network's Workshop Schedule

## Winter/Spring 2018

Offering supportive and enlightening workshops to those who are touched by adoption or considering adoption.

**TO REGISTER:** Please call or e-mail Michele LeMasney at 609.694.2626 or [mlemasney@openarmsadoption.net](mailto:mlemasney@openarmsadoption.net)  
You can also register online anytime at [www.openarmsadoption.net](http://www.openarmsadoption.net)

Please note that advanced RSVP is required to attend all workshops. Titles beginning with an \*\* indicate workshops that are required for families working with Open Arms. These workshops (with the exception of the Open Adoption Seminar) will rotate throughout the year in both our Philadelphia and New York City locations for easier accessibility.

## Workshops

### **BONDING & ATTACHMENT IN NEWBORN ADOPTION**

**January 24th**

(6:30pm – 8:30pm)  
2100 Arch St.  
Philadelphia, PA

### **\*\*OPEN ADOPTION SEMINAR**

**February 25th**

(10:00am – 4:30pm)  
Huntingdon Valley Library  
(Second Floor),  
625 Red Lion Road  
Huntingdon Valley, PA

### **OPIOID EXPOSED INFANTS: WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW**

**March 8th**

(6:30pm – 8:30pm)  
The Barbara and Harvey Brodsky  
Enrichment Center of JFCS  
345 Montgomery Ave.  
Bala Cynwyd, PA

### **\*\*THE LANGUAGE OF ADOPTION**

**March 14th**

(6:30pm – 8:30pm)  
825 Third Ave. (Second Floor)  
New York, NY

### **\*\*LIVING A TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION**

**April 11th**

(6:30pm – 8:30pm)  
2100 Arch St.  
Philadelphia, PA

### **\*\*THE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE**

**May 2nd**

(6:30pm – 8:30pm)  
825 Third Ave. (Second Floor)  
New York, NY

### **EXPLORING CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL UNDERSTANDING OF ADOPTION**

**May 22nd**

(6:30pm – 8:30pm)  
2100 Arch St.  
Philadelphia, PA

### **\*\*THE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE**

**June 5th**

(6:30pm-8:30pm)  
2100 Arch St.  
Philadelphia, PA

### **\*\*LIVING A TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION**

**June 13th**

(6:30pm – 8:30pm)  
825 Third Ave. (Second Floor)  
New York, NY



Toll Free: 1.888.OPENARMS 24/7 Hotline (1.888.673.6276)

[www.OpenArmsAdoption.net](http://www.OpenArmsAdoption.net)

*Open Arms Adoption Network is a program of JFCS of Greater Philadelphia, an agency that has provided adoption services since 1855.*

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adoption network

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### **BONDING & ATTACHMENT IN NEWBORN ADOPTION**

Attachment and bonding are critical to the development of secure human beings. A strong and healthy attachment formed early in life can set the stage for all future relationships. Children adopted domestically typically arrive in their adoptive families as infants, sometimes only days old, yet a focus on building strong attachments is very important. In this training we will explore the meaning and importance of bonding and attachment as well as provide simple techniques that will support your bonding and attaching to your child and their bonding and attaching to you. Parents will also learn language to use with friends and family to assist in explaining your attachment-focused parenting.

**Facilitator: Stefani Moon, Open Arms**

### **OPEN ADOPTION SEMINAR**

Join us for a full day exploration of open adoption. Topics presented include preparing to adopt, the nuts and bolts of the adoption process, and the benefits of maintaining a life-long healthy open adoption. Interwoven throughout the day, birth and adoptive families will share their open adoption experience.

**Facilitators: Open Arms**

### **OPIOID EXPOSED INFANTS: WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW**

The number of babies who were exposed to heroin or prescription opioids during pregnancy has reached epidemic levels, but what does this really mean for the child and parents? During this presentation, we will discuss how a newborn's opioid withdrawal is assessed and treated. We will also address longer-term developmental and behavioral outcomes that may or may not be associated with opioid exposure during pregnancy.

**Facilitator: Dr. Dennis Hand — Dr. Dennis Hand is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Thomas Jefferson University. He is also the Associate Director of TJU's Maternal Addiction Treatment, Education, and Research program, which has been developing and providing treatment for substance use disorders to pregnant women in Philadelphia since the 1970s. Dr. Hand received his PhD in 2012, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship from 2012-2015. Dr. Hand has conducted federally-funded research on the assessment of newborn withdrawal and behavioral and pharmacological interventions to improve health among women with substance use disorders.**

### **THE LANGUAGE OF ADOPTION**

Learning to speak a new language is a skill that takes time and practice. When forming our family through adoption, the words we use to talk about it matter. Please join us as we explore ways to improve our fluency in speaking about adoption with acquaintances, child care providers, friends, family, and most importantly, with our children. This workshop is designed for families at all stages in their adoption, pre- or post placement. Topics covered will include the use of accurate and positive terms, communication with birth families and techniques on how to initiate developmentally appropriate discussions with children.

**Facilitator: Stefani Moon, Open Arms**

### **LIVING A TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION**

When we choose to become a transracial family through adoption, we accept the responsibility of opening our hearts and our lives to new ways of being. Join us as we talk about what it means to be a "conspicuous family", how to talk about race and culture with your children, learn ways to incorporate a wide array of multiculturalism into your family and discuss strategies for helping to educate others in your life about what it means to be a transracial family. This workshop is designed for all families who have or are planning to adopt a child of a race or ethnicity other than their own.

**Facilitator: Stefani Moon, Open Arms**

### **THE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE**

It's difficult to imagine what your experience at the hospital will be like before you have even been chosen by a birthparent. Nonetheless, our work shows that there are several scenarios that we often see and experience together. Join us to discuss and to learn about how Open Arms will support both you and the birthfamily. Additionally, participants will hear from an adoptive mother who has three hospital experiences from which to reflect upon.

**Facilitators: Meredith Rose, Stefani Moon & Michele LeMasney, Open Arms**

### **EXPLORING CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL UNDERSTANDING OF ADOPTION**

In this workshop we will anticipate your child's questions about being adopted, what children need to now at different ages and stages about their origins and their stories. We'll explore how children feel about adoption, what's on their minds and in their hearts. Our conversation will include building a healthy identity based on honoring your child's dual heritage (birth and adoptive) and the unique emotional landscape of loss that is a normal part of adoption experience and integral to the search for self.

**Facilitator: Abby Ruder, Marriage and Family Therapist, has been specializing in parenting and adoption for 25 years. She works with all members of the adoption triad pre- and post-placement. Ms. Ruder is also a mother by adoption in an interracial family.**

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