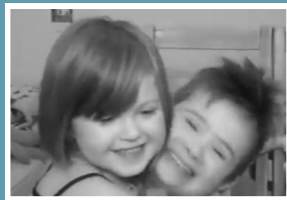


JUNE 9, 2015



## SIBLING LOVE

This little girl, Ace, loves her brother Archie. He was adopted from Bulgaria and they love being together. Her brother was born with Down Syndrome and his birth mother was not able to care for him. Ace does not see the difference between her brother and her. Watch this touching story about a little girl and the love she has for her brother.



[WATCH VIDEO](#)

## FREE BOOK FOR PARENTS ADOPTING FROM DHS

IFAPA's *Navigating Iowa's Adoption Subsidy Program* publication is intended to be a resource to parents as they consider an adoptive placement and a reference guide after placement. This publication covers: eligibility of Iowa adoption subsidy, the Iowa adoption placement process, DHS adoption subsidy and support services, etc.

To request a free copy of this booklet, please e-mail your name and full mailing address to [Crystal Thomason](#).

## HEAR IT STRAIGHT FROM THE EXPERTS!

### Working with Birth Families

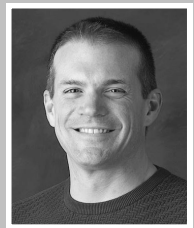
This training will explore the role of foster parents in working with birth families. This training will look at how the foster parent/birth parent relationship has changed over the years and with that change the expectation that foster families become more involved with birth families to better work toward positive outcomes. We will examine some of the modern social issues faced by birth families, how these barriers can impact their ability to succeed, the grief and loss process and how it affects both birth families as well as foster families, and strategies for working more effectively with birth families to achieve more positive outcomes for children in foster care. (Mike McGuire)



**Saturday, June 13 (9am-4:30pm) - ANKENY**  
**Saturday, Sept. 26 (9am-4:30pm) - COUNCIL BLUFFS**

### Mood Disorders in Children & Teens: What Does it Look Like & What Can We Do?

This training will focus on the description of various mood disorders in children and teens such as dysthymia, major depression, atypical depression, and bipolar disorder and how they differ from normal sadness, irritability, and moodiness. We will also talk about best practices for assessment and treatment of mood disorders in childhood and adolescence and the advantages and disadvantages of diagnosis and various treatment methods. Participants should leave this workshop with a basic understanding of what mood disorders might look like in children and teens and what to expect from a thorough and appropriate assessment and treatment approach. (Warren Phillips Ph.D.)



**Saturday, June 13 (9am-4:30pm) - DAVENPORT**

[VIEW FULL TRAINING SCHEDULE](#)

To Register - Call 800.277.8145 or [Register Online](#)

## LAST CHANCE TO USE YOUR ADOPTION RESPITE

Each adopted child who receives a subsidy from Iowa is eligible to receive five days of respite care per fiscal year at \$20 per day. The current fiscal year for the Adoption Respite Program runs July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. All respite days must be used during this time and the form must be submitted no later than Friday, July 3, 2015. [VIEW FORM](#)

# Adoptive Family Needed for this Friendly Boy

12-year-old Xander is an outdoorsman and a builder. He enjoys riding his scooter outside, and he excels at building things, which is why he enjoys puzzles, Beyblades and Legos.

This young man is friendly and affectionate when spending time with those he trusts. His sense of humor shines once you get to know him and he is comfortable with you.

In a previous foster home, Xander enjoyed outdoor chores such as stacking firewood and attending church events.

Xander enjoys math in school. As he works to catch up academically, he would benefit from a structured classroom with a small class size to help him continue making progress.

A two-parent household or a single male parent will be the best fit for Xander. It will be best if Xander is the only child in the home so a family can give him their full focus.

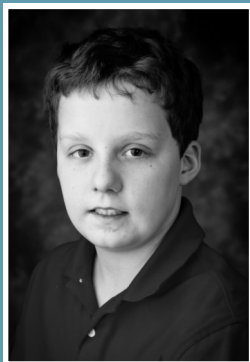
Xander's future adoptive family needs to have experience with reactive attachment disorder and hard-to-manage behaviors and must be able to provide a structured, consistent environment.

Xander can feel overwhelmed in social situations and crowded environments. It will be important for his family to help him regulate his emotions and identify when he needs to take a break from overwhelming situations. He is getting better at doing this for himself.

Xander's future adoptive family should be willing to work with various agencies to help Xander succeed and to help him continue making progress academically.

Xander's DHS adoption worker will consider adoptive families outside of Iowa.

**Could you be the family to provide a stable and loving home for Xander?** [REQUEST MORE INFORMATION](#)



## LEARNING TO LET GO: COPING WITH REUNIFICATION ANXIETY

From the moment a child enters your home, the fear of reunification can also move in. How will you say goodbye? Will the child be returning to a safe and stable environment? How will the other kids in your care react when this child leaves?

The first goal of foster care is often reunification. And, while you may have known that this was the goal from the start, that doesn't mean that, when the time comes to say goodbye, anxiety can't happen. Reunification anxiety can happen to anyone, but understanding what to do in certain situations may help you cope with some of those feelings.

### WHAT IS REUNIFICATION ANXIETY?

Reunification anxiety is something that can be common for foster parents. Feelings of worry, nervousness, or unease about the child in your care returning to his birth parent(s)/home may enter your mind when you learn that the reunification is drawing near. You might also feel excited or apprehensive; happy or sad; heart-full or heartbroken. The feelings can be mixed and complicated. And, just as you may be feeling a complicated and heady mix of emotions, the child in your care and his birth parent(s) may also be feeling those same or very similar emotions.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

## JOB OPENING @ IFAPA

IFAPA is currently accepting applications for a Peer Liaison. IFAPA Peer Liaisons are established foster parents who mentor foster families and provide peer-to-peer support. Peer Liaisons are part-time employees of IFAPA and work out of their home approximately 20 hours per week. This new staff member must reside in one of the following counties: Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Butler, Grundy, Marshall or Tama. [LEARN MORE](#)

**Application deadline: June 12, 2015**