

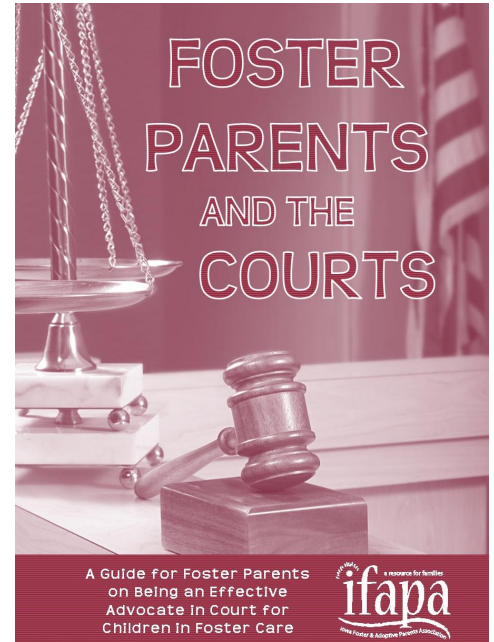
MARCH 13, 2018

## FREE BOOKLET FROM IFAPA

As a foster parent you have a critical role to play in the life of a child. Not only are you responsible for the child's day-to-day care, but because you spend so much time caring for and observing them, you are able to provide the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the court with valuable information that is needed to make important decisions regarding the child's welfare. One of the important needs of a child placed in foster care is the need to receive permanency timely. Juvenile court and DHS have the responsibility to assist the birth family in rectifying the problems that led to the removal of the child, allowing the child to return home safely. It is strongly recommended that foster parents attend all court hearings for the children in their care. As a foster parent, you have a right to receive notice of court hearings and you have the right to be heard in court. You are not automatically a party to a case; however, you may become a party if you petition to intervene and are granted that right.

**Foster Parents and the Courts** was written in order to help you understand the court process. It will provide you with valuable information about your rights and responsibilities, the role of key participants in the court process, and how you can be most effective in advocating for the best interests of the children in your care.

To request a free copy of this book, please e-mail IFAPA at [ifapa@ifapa.org](mailto:ifapa@ifapa.org) with your name and mailing address.



## Facts About Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD's)

There are many names used to describe ASD's, including Institutional Autism, which many of the children available for adoption fall under. We will cover these within this area. These names include: Autism, Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder. As of June 2013, one of the biggest changes in DSM-5 was that PDD-NOS, Autistic Disorder, Aspergers, and Autism were re-categorized under one diagnosis: Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is an umbrella term used to describe complex disorders impacting brain development that can range from mildly to profoundly disabling. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

## SCHOLARSHIPS HELP FOSTER/ADOPTIVE YOUTH ATTEND COLLEGE

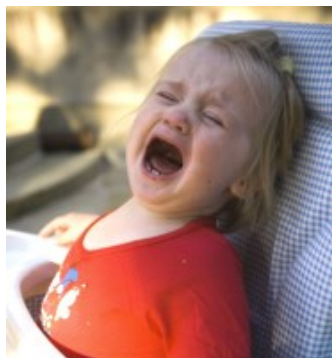
Paying for college is a strain for many, but scholarships can help. Here are a few scholarships that give special consideration to foster/adoptive youth:

- The National Foster Parent Association offers scholarships for foster youth, adopted youth, or biological youth of currently licensed foster parents, who wish to further their education beyond high school, including college or university studies, vocational/technical school or junior college. The 2018 NFPA Youth Scholarship application is open until March 23, 2018. For details, visit <http://www.nfpaonline.org/nfpascholarship>
- International Student Foundation supports former foster youth and orphans who are interested in pursuing a degree with a 2-year or 4-year college. Students will receive both financial support as well as personal one-on-one mentoring. Scholarships are for those who are pursuing their Bachelor of Arts, Masters or Ph.D. For details, visit [www.isfsite.org](http://www.isfsite.org).
- Foster Care to Success scholarships for current and former foster youth are available. Apply by March 31. This website also has links to other scholarships, vouchers, services and programs aimed at helping young people succeed. Deadlines vary. [www.fc2success.org/our-programs/information-for-students/](http://www.fc2success.org/our-programs/information-for-students/).  
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## EATING ISSUES FACING FOSTER & ADOPTIVE CHILDREN

The North American Council on Adoptable Children's most recent *Adoptalk* newsletter features an informative article by Dr. Katja Rowell—*Healing from Food Insecurity: Beyond the Stash*. The article explores how a child's early experiences with food deprivation can affect them in future placements, and offers tips and strategies parents can use as they seek to help their children overcome some of their anxiety related to food insecurity.

[www.nacac.org/adoptalk/beyondthestash.html](http://www.nacac.org/adoptalk/beyondthestash.html)



### WHEN ADOPTED TODDLERS REJECT THEIR PARENTS

More and more adopted children are arriving home between the ages of one and three, and many of these toddlers have been wrenched from a familiar setting, are grieving the loss of a known caregiver, have experienced neglect or other forms of abuse, and/or have experienced multiple disruptions in their short lives. Toddlers who have resided in orphanages have typically experienced both environmental impoverishment and extremely inadequate care. Yet many professionals and adoptive parents continue to believe that with just a little extra love, toddlers will quickly attach to their parents. In this article, author Mary Hopkins-Best addresses how and why toddlers often reject a parent, and strategies for dealing with rejection.

To read the full article, visit:

[www.rainbowkids.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=803](http://www.rainbowkids.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=803)

# Treating childhood trauma

*Oprah Winfrey reports on 60 Minutes how trauma plays a role in childhood development and what new methods are being used to help kids who have experienced it.*

In 1850, a Catholic orphanage called St. Aemilian was founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to take in children whose parents had died in a cholera epidemic. 168 Years later, that same organization -- now known as "SaintA" -- is still finding shelter for thousands of children who need it, often kids who have deep trauma in their young lives, and helps those kids with a revolutionary approach that's spreading across the country.

No longer a residential orphanage, SaintA primarily places orphaned, abandoned, neglected and abused children in foster homes, and then coordinates their care. On any given day, it's looking after some 2,000 children, almost all of whom are part of a 21st century epidemic of childhood trauma.

Alisha Fox: I got diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder when I was 15.

Milwaukee resident Alisha Fox was given that PTSD diagnosis seven years ago, months after she somehow found the courage to tell her grandmother – and then the police – of the terrible trauma she had been enduring.

[Click Here to Go to the Story](#)

## Fidgeting — It's Not Just for Kids



We usually think of fidget toys as a great way to help kids with ADHD pay attention. Adults diagnosed with ADHD need them as much as kids do. Why should kids have all the fun? Actually, it's not fun that fidget toys provide, but focus.

How can that be, asks the co-worker who's annoyed by the fidgeting, or the spouse who regards fidgeting as immature behavior, or the supervisor who says, "Stop fiddling around and get to work"?

### ADHD Brains Need to Vent

People with ADHD, of all ages, have so much going on in their brains that there is a neurological spillover, an excess of neurological discharge that needs an outlet. This is where fidget toys can be invaluable. Instead of suppressing the overflow until the individual explodes, making a big mess, embarrassing himself or herself, and maybe getting into trouble, a fidgety person can find an outlet through a toy.

[Click Here to Read more](#)