

Subject: ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter 10/23/06

From: "Robin Bartko"

Date: 23 Oct 2006 03:49:57 -0000

Hello Adoption Friends,

I have lots of news and information to share with you that I hope will be helpful to you on your adoption journeys, including some great online adoption telecourse/webinar opportunities in the next few days. The topics in this edition of the ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter include:

1. Country Guidelines and New Video Section on Rainbowkids.com
2. American Academy of Pediatrics Encourages Parents to let Kids Play
3. Toy Guide for Differently-abled Kids
4. Free Telecourse on Attachment Wednesday (10/25/06)
5. Five Part Introduction to International Adoption Starts Thursday (10/26/06)
6. China Webinar now Available "On Demand"
7. "Adoption the Loving Option" Car Magnets

1) Country Guidelines & New Video Section on Rainbowkids.com

Rainbowkids.com has recently redone their web site, and I wanted to share with you two of my favorite features. The first is the "Countries" section (<http://www.rainbowkids.com/Countries/>) that provides country specific adoption guidelines for many countries -- useful if you're still thinking about which country would be right for you. Just click the flag of the country that interests you. My favorite, however, is the new "Video" section (<http://www.rainbowkids.com/ShowVideo.aspx>) that has some truly wonderful videos. Some appear to be sent in by adoptive families and are like mini-music videos about their children. I get tears in my eyes watching some of them -- a picture really is worth a thousand words. My favorite is "Karra" which is set to the most beautiful adoption song I've ever heard, "You are My Child" by Shawna Fox. If you want some inspiration, check this video out. The chorus is:

*"I wasn't there when you were born,
I didn't see you start to crawl.
I couldn't watch your first few steps,
or pick you up for your first fall.
I may not be the one who saw your first sweet smile.
I wasn't there in the beginning,
but from now on, you are my child."*

2) American Academy of Pediatrics Encourages Parents to let Kids Play

Wonder about what children need for healthy development? According to an article by the Associated Press on MS-NBC, the American Academy of Pediatrics states that "more good, old-fashioned playtime" is what children really need for healthy development. You can read the article by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15186964/>

3) Toy Guide for Differently-abled Kids

While I was out birthday shopping for one of my children, I noticed that Toys R Us has a "Toy Guide for Differently-abled Kids" produced in partnership with the United Parents Syndicate on Disabilities. Each of the toys in the guide was selected and evaluated by the National Lekotek Center (<http://www.lekotek.org>), and is labeled for it's "fit between a child's abilities and stimulating toys that will promote development" in one or more of 10 categories including: auditory, language, tactile (skin awareness of touch & texture), and social skills (relationships, interaction). You can view the guide on line by clicking on the following link:

http://toysrus.richfx.com/catalog_toysrus/diffabled_06_t/diffabled_06_t.html

4) Free Telecourse on Attachment Wednesday (10/25/06)

Dawn Choate - a mother of four including two children adopted from China - will present "Healing Hannah: Attachment from a parent's point of view" this Wednesday (10/25/06) at 9 PM Eastern. Dawn was recently featured in Adoption Today magazine and on Rainbowkids.com

(<http://www.rainbowkids.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=69>). This is a great opportunity for both pre and post adoptive parents regardless of the country you are adopting (or have adopted) from. Register today by clicking on the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html#HealingHanna

5) Five Part Introduction to International Adoption Starts Thursday (10/26/06)

Are you at or near the beginning of your adoption journey? Join me for my five session webinar, "Thinking Of Adopting: A Guide to International Adoption", that will give you an overview of the international adoption process, including focused sessions on the process, the home study, how (and when) to select an adoption agency, and sources of international adoption information. This webinar will include downloadable questions for you to ask when you are interviewing adoption agencies. If you have not picked an adoption agency and/or a country to adopt from yet, this is a very informative course that you will find very helpful or I'll be happy to send you a refund. Don't worry if you miss a class, it is available for replay. Begins this Thursday (10/26/06) at 9 PM Eastern; class size is very limited. For more information or to register click on the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html#TOA

6) China Webinar Now Available "On Demand"

Did you miss "Adopting the Orphanage Child: Overcoming Orphanage Life" with Dr. Todd Ochs (an international adoption pediatrician and parent of five daughters including four from China)? If so, I'm happy to announce you can now watch it "on demand". It's a great course for anyone who is adopting from China, and consists of two parts: an 80 minute online presentation (webinar) titled "Medical Issues in Adopting from China" and a recording of a 75 minute Q&A session that Dr. Ochs held with adoptive parents (over 2 1/2 hours of recorded content). Plus, you can download Dr. Ochs' slides for your reference as well the list of Chinese Medical Resources (organized by province) that he compiled. If you are not completely satisfied I'll be happy to send you a refund. To view a brief preview of the webinar or to register click on the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html#Ochs

7) "Adoption the Loving Option" Car Magnets

Want to help increase awareness about adoption? Consider placing these "Adoption the Loving Option" ribbon magnets on your car. My husband and I have them on our cars (our son Noah likes to take them on and off), and have even given them to family and friends. Click on the following link to see a picture or order these magnets for yourself:

<http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/magnet.html>

Help Spread the Word

As always, if you find the adoption telecourses and webinars on ThinkingOfAdopting.com helpful, I'd certainly appreciate if you would help spread the word. As always, please feel free to pass this information on to anyone whom you feel would be interested. I'd sincerely appreciate your help in getting the word out.

My best to you on your adoption journey. If there is anything I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robin Bartko
ThinkingOfAdopting.com

"Adoptive Parents Helping You on Your Adoption Journey"

Robin@ThinkingOfAdopting.com

410-916-1542

ThinkingOfAdopting.com, 6030 Marshalee Drive, #177, Elkridge, MD 21075, USA