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NJ•ARCH Features:

- Chat Rooms
- Lending Library
- Warm Line
- Resource Directory
- Training Workshops
- Support Group Advocacy
- Upcoming Events
- Speakers Bureau



www.cafsnj.org

ADOPTION AND THE SCHOOLS



Starting school may be an adopted child's first relationship with people outside their family and friends. Questions from peers or teachers may be uncomfortable for children, and some classroom assignments may be challenging. For example, a child who joined the family when he or she was older may not have baby pictures, and the common family tree assignment may be difficult for an adopted person. Below are some resources that may be helpful to adoptive families and teachers to better understand school-related adoption issues.* There are many articles, books, videos and websites that can be quite helpful to you and your

child on how to talk about adoption in the school and/or to your or you child's friends. Adoptive Families Magazine has a full section of "adoption and the school" articles that can be good to read and/or share. The Adoption Council has a nice handout called "Back to School: A Guide to Making Schools and School Assignments More Adoption-Friendly." Download at www.adoptioncouncil.org/images/stories/NCFA_ADOPTION_ADVOCATE_NO27.pdf. The Child Welfare Gateway has several great articles and factsheets about *Parenting your Adopted Preschooler* , www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/preschool.pdf,

"Parenting Your School Aged Child," www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/parent-school-age/ as well as *Parenting your Adopted Teenager*, www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/parent_teenager.pdf

We at NJ ARCH highly recommend the "Adoption and the Schools" book, that offers simple, down-to-earth ideas on how to deal with those "dreaded" assignments such as family tree, genetics and first baby pictures. Need some ideas, handouts or books about adoption and the school? Give NJ ARCH a call or drop us a warm line e-mail. We would love to help you!

*www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/adopt-parenting/school/.

TIPS FROM THE CDC

Since children spend much of their time in classrooms, schools are an ideal setting to teach and model healthy behaviors. As children across the country get ready to return to school, parents and staff can gear up to improve the health of students and

help them achieve academic success. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend a number of ways parents and the school staff can make healthy living easier where kids learn and play. Small changes such as incorporating fun movements into

short "physical activity" breaks between lessons or adding more healthy options in the cafeteria can have a collective impact on a school's environment. For ideas, log onto www.cdc.gov/features/back-to-school/index.html.

DID YOU KNOW?



TO READ THE BIRTHRIGHT LAW

LOG ONTO:

WWW.NJLEG.STATE.NJ.US/2014/BILLS/PL14/9_.PDF

WHEN READY, APPLICATION
FORMS FOR ADOPTEEES AND
CONTACT PREFERENCE/
NAME REDACTION
REQUEST FORMS SHOULD BE
POSTED AT:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/HEALTH/VITAL/FAQ.SHTML#AD](http://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/HEALTH/VITAL/FAQ.SHTML#AD)



MEET MIKE
DOB: 10/2009

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BIRTHRIGHT LAW

The last two issues featured highlights of the NJ Birthright Bill that became law on May 27, 2014. Since we believe this is very important information, we wanted to repeat these key elements of Public Law, 2014, Chapter 9. This law provides that: **1** - People born and/or adopted in NJ who are at least 18 years of age may, upon request, receive a copy of their original birth certificates (OBC) after Jan. 1, 2017. **2** - Others who may access the adopted person's OBC include: a direct descendant or spouse of the adopted person, an adoptive parent or legal guardian/legal representative of the adopted person or an agency of the state or federal government for official purposes only. **3** - The registrar may file a new certificate of birth for a child born in a foreign country or under the laws of a country other than

the U.S. who has been granted an immigrant visa or successor immigrant visa by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. **4** - The birth parent of an adopted person may submit a document of contact preference to the State Registrar indicating: **a)** "I would like to be contacted directly" **b)** "I would prefer to be contacted only through an intermediary. I would like the following individual to act as an intermediary" or **c)** "I would prefer not to be contacted at this time. If I decide later that I would like to be contacted, I will submit a revised document of contact preference." **5** - A parent who files a document of contact preference must simultaneously submit a completed form providing updated family history information, which shall include medical, cultural, and social history information regarding the birth parent. A parent who requests no contact will be

requested to update family history information every 10 years until the age of 40 and every five years thereafter. The birth parent may revise preference re: contact at any time. **6** - A birth parent whose relinquished child's adoption was finalized before August 1, 2015, may submit a request for redaction of their name and other identifying information to the Office of the Registrar before Dec. 31, 2016. This request may be rescinded by the birth parent at any time, and the Registrar shall provide the identifying information concerning the birth parent to the authorized requester. For persons born after August 1, 2015, the birth parent's name and identifying information will remain on the OBC. For persons adopted after this date, the adoptee will receive a complete, un-redacted long form certificate of birth.

DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION AND PERMANENCY (DCP&P) WAITING CHILD

Mike is an adorable and lovable little boy. He loves the adult attention and having people around. Mike is medically needy with global developmental delays. He suffers from cognitive, motor and visual impairment. Mike also has a seizure disorder. He takes medication to minimize seizure activity. His seizure activity has been reduced to a seizure a week. Mike is visually impaired but

he will track movement and respond to light. Mike is not ambulatory and requires a wheelchair for mobility. He has no control of his head, neck or legs. Mike has a big appetite and enjoys eating. He receives nourishment through a gastronomy tube and some solid food by mouth. Mike communicates all of his needs by crying. He is soothed by a bouncing or swinging motion and to music. Mike participates in phys-

ical, speech and occupational therapy. Mike is dependent on others for help with all of his daily living activities. He will need an adoptive family that has the experience of caring for a medically needy child and willing to make a lifelong commitment to his care and development. For more information on Mike, please contact 1-800-99-ADOPT.

LIVING LIFE ONLINE

The Federal Trade Commission publishes some nice handbooks two of which we found particularly interesting. "Living Life Online" and "Heads Up, Stop, Think, Connect" could help tweens/teens and young adults make good decisions about how to use online communication. Here are a few tips we found in "Living Life Online" www.ftc.livinglifeonline.gov that we found especially helpful:

- **Your online actions have real world consequences.** The pictures you post or send and the words you write can affect the people in your life.

- **Once you post something online, you can't take it back.** That goes for sending messages too. Even if you delete it, older versions may exist on other people's devices. That means that photo or comment you really don't want people to see anymore could be living somewhere—permanently.

- **What you post could have a bigger "audience" than you think.** Even if you use privacy settings, it's impossible to have complete control over who sees your pictures, videos, profiles, comments or texts. Before you post or send, think about how you will feel if your family, teachers, coaches or neighbors find it.

- **Get someone's OK before you share photos or videos they're in.** It can be embarrassing, unfair and even unsafe to

send or post photos and videos without permission from the people in them. If you would like to order this publication, please log onto:

<https://bulkorder.ftc.gov/publications/living-life-online>.

The second booklet, published by OnGuardOnline.gov called "Heads Up: Stop, Think, Connect" starts with "...Being online-connected through some sort of device is how you live your life. And as you spend more of your time there, it can be easy to over-share, embarrass yourself, mess up your computer and possibly get messages from creepy people. The truth is that there are some risks involved with socializing, playing and communicating on-line." Regardless of the media used, the best tool you have to avoid risks online is your **brain.** Before you post or send a message, photo or video, stop for a second and think about: **Do I know and trust who I'm dealing with—or what I'm sharing or downloading?** In the "Interact with Tact" section of the booklet, the following discussion points are explained:

- **Politeness counts.** Texting is just another way for people to have conversation, and texters are just like people talking face to face on the phone. Everyone appreciates "please" and "thank you."

- **Tone it down.** In online conversations, using all CAPS, long rows of exclamation points or large bolded fonts is the same as shouting.

- **Use "Cc: and Reply all" sparingly.** Before you send a message, stop and think about whether everyone needs to see it.

- **Avatars are people too.** When playing a game, exploring an online world, creating a character and interacting with others, remember people are behind those characters on screen. Respect their feelings just like you would a person face to face.

- **Don't Impersonate.** It's hurtful to create sites, pages or posts that seem to come from someone else in your class or a teacher.

- **Speak up.** If you see something inappropriate on a social networking site, game or chat room, let the website know and have your children tell an adult they trust.

- **Don't stand for bullying—online or off.** Treat others the way you want to be treated, online, on the phone or in person.

For more information on this handbook or to order log onto <https://bulkorder.ftc.gov/>.

If you would like us to send you one or both handbooks, please contact NJ ARCH.

DO YOU KNOW?

**YOU CAN
ORDER THESE
HELPFUL
HANDBOOKS AT
[https://
bulkorder.ftc.gov/
publications/living-life-
online](https://bulkorder.ftc.gov/publications/living-life-online).
AND
SEARCH BY NAME**



DID YOU KNOW?

CONTACT US AT
DWFRIED@NJARCH.ORG IF
YOU WOULD LIKE US TO
PRESENT ONE OF THE BELOW
TOPICS TO YOUR CONFERENCE
OR SUPPORT GROUP
MEETINGS!

- ADOPTION: A LIFE-LONG LOSS

- TELLING YOUR CHILD
DIFFICULT HISTORY

- TRANS-RACIAL
ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

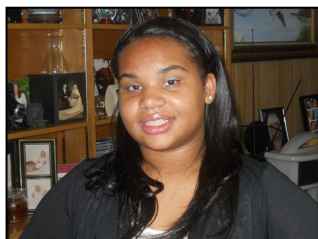
-BASICS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
IN NEW JERSEY

-ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE
IN THE SCHOOL

-FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CARE
SITUATIONS: WORKSHOP TO
HELP FOSTER PARENTS DEAL
WITH DIFFICULT BEHAVIORS

- FROM TERMINATION OF
PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR) TO
ADOPTION

-THE ADOPTED CHILD'S
JOURNEY: QUESTIONS ALONG
THE WAY



Meet Tiara
DOB 6/1998



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY IS
NOVEMBER 21, 2015

National Adoption Day which will be on Saturday, November 21st is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. This annual, one-day event has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with policymakers, practitioners and advocates to finalize adoptions and create and celebrate adoptive families. In total, National Adoption Day has helped nearly 44,500 children move from foster care to forever families. Communities across the country celebrate Adoption Day the Saturday before every Thanksgiving. In 2012, nearly 4,500 children were adopted by their forever families during the 13th annual National Adoption Day celebration in almost 400 cities across the United States. In New Jersey most County Department of Children and Families will be celebrating National Adoption Day by finalizing adoptions throughout the state.

Please join us in celebrating these children joining their forever families! For more information log onto:
www.nationaladoptionday.org

RESOURCES FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Looking for a support group, mental health professional, culture camp, school-related handbook and / or just need to speak to someone about your adopted child or family? Consider contacting **NJ ARCH!** We can connect you to numerous statewide services, many offered free of charge.

Check out www.njarch.org and click on the "Resource" tab on the left side. Select the alpha or by county listing. Don't have a PC or want to speak to someone directly? Call us at 877-4ARCHNJ (877-427-2465) to speak to one of our warm line professionals. We can assist you in finding some support resources for your family. One of our workers is fluent in Spanish so we can help many who need it. Give us a call! We would love to speak with you!

DCP&P WAITING CHILD: TIARA

Tiara is an articulate young woman with big dreams for her future. She realizes the impact school can have on her dreams. An academically strong student, Tiara was recently inducted into the National Honor Society. She loves her high school and is a social butterfly who is "always in the know". Like music? Tiara can talk about her favorite artist, Justin Bieber for quite some time. "As long as you love me" is one of her favorite songs from Justin and she knows the words to almost all the songs that come on the radio. Tiara's dream is to be a hair stylist; with guidance and training she could have one amazing career! Tiara will greatly benefit from a loving, permanent family that will provide her with understanding and consistent care. Tiara would like to continue her contact with her brother. For more information on Tiara please call 1-800-99-ADOPT.

NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

I hope my readers are enjoying a summer filled with new adventures and time to relax. August is usually accompanied by thoughts of the approaching school year.

With so many grandparents raising their grandchildren in our society today, either through adoption or kinship care, I thought it would be helpful to talk about issues that grandparents face concerning the "school lives" of their grandchildren.

In their book, *Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family*, Sylvie de Toledo and Deborah Edler Brown devote a chapter to school issues titled, "Your Grandchild and the School." Case scenarios are presented explaining what is happening in the classroom, how a child is reacting and the specific baggage he is carrying.

"School is rough for any kid. They get hassled about what they wear; they're expected to act a certain way, and they feel foolish if they are too different. That's just with the other children. Strict teachers, rules and regulations, and the challenge of schoolwork itself can add new levels of stress to a child's life. For a child being raised by grandparents, especially a child with emotional or academic difficulties, school can be a

minefield of problems from social isolation to failing a grade."

Peers make insensitive remarks about the fact that you are older than other parents. Most school activities assume a parent-child relationship: from making Mother's Day and Father's Day cards to parent-teacher conferences. This can be troubling to a child who does not live with his biological mother. It is also possible that a child does not know where his mother is.

Behavior problems experienced by your grandchildren at home may be even more pronounced when they start school. Fear of abandonment, clingy behavior, and heightened anxiety may all be even greater at school. These children, when they are not physically with you, worry about where you are, how you are, and if you are coming back.

School may be the place where anger, aggression and inappropriate behaviors are often acted out.

Other children seem to fade into the background or disappear in school. They are depressed and withdrawn. These children often fall between the cracks. They don't cause trouble in class and are overlooked by teachers.

Your grandchild may have ADHD, or learning disabilities. Inability to pay attention or concentrate are signs of ADHD when they occur most of the time. A child may have trouble with reading because she is seeing things backward. Reading comprehension, writing, spelling, spoken language, reasoning, math and organizational skills are all problematic for a child with learning disabilities.

Poor attendance at his prior school can cause your grandchild to be behind because he missed too many days. School was not a priority where he used to live. He may have been left back a grade or even two grades.

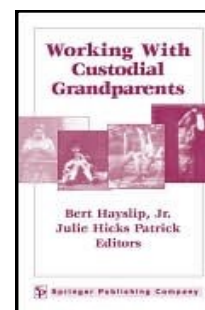
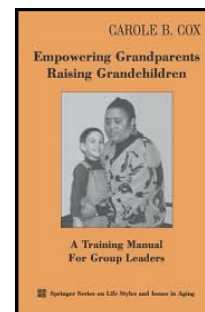
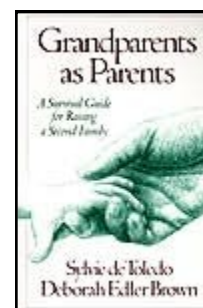
There could also be a medical problem. Your grandchild may not see the blackboard or he might have trouble hearing the teacher.

As one can observe from reading this review, school-related issues are many and varied. Grandparents have taken on awesome responsibilities in terms of their involvement with the "school lives" of their grandchildren.

These loving and giving people should be lauded and respected when they say "yes" to raising a grandchild.

DID YOU KNOW?

Check out this and the other books found in our NJ ARCH Library!



**INTERESTED IN KINSHIP CARE
INFORMATION OR TOPICS?**

**CHECK OUT THE NJ
KINSHIP LEGAL
GUARDIANSHIP RESOURCE
CLEARING HOUSE
KINKONNECT**

AT

**WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG
OR CALL 1-877-KLG LINE
(1-877-554-5463)**

NEW JERSEY ADOPTION RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

76 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE
SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

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*The one-stop
resource
for those
touched
by adoption.*

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CONFERENCES AND MORE

Wednesday, September 9:
2015 Biennial Statewide Conference: Kinship Care and Family Connections, sponsored by the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect and NJ Department of Children and Families, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, For information:

www.cpe.rutgers.edu/NJDCF2015/

Monday, November 9:
Improving Trauma-Informed Care and Services for Diverse Populations, sponsored by NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competence, 2015 Annual Conference, NJ DCF Professional Center, New Brunswick, NJ. For information :

www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-nj-cultural-competence-conference-registration-17316902321

Sunday, November 15:
34th Annual Concerned Persons for Adoption "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ
Keynote: Debbie Riley, M.S, CASE Center for Adoption Support and Education , Keynote: *Identity and the Adopted Teen: Surviving the Crucible of Adolescence*, www.cpfanjanj.org

Sunday, November 22nd:
35th Annual Adoption, Adoptive Parents Committee, Keynote, Pat O'Brien Founder of "You Gotta Believe" St. Francis College, Brooklyn NY.
www.adoptiveparents.org/

September 2015- to May 2016: Adoptive Parent Support Group: 3rd Thursday of the Month; Children's Aid and Family Services, South Orange NJ For more information contact Kate Hamilton, LSW (201)740-7126.

For more events and conferences please log onto our www.njarch.org.

Touched by Kinship? Check out www.kinkconnect.org.

