



**CARING HOMES
FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN**

HOMeward BOUND

The Caring Homes for Orphan Children
Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 6. November 2003. Page 1 of 3



November is Adoption Awareness Month



RESEARCH REPORT

Children From Eastern European Orphanages Reported To Progress Quickly

Interviews with families who adopted a total of 124 children from Eastern European orphanages show that children experienced "considerable catch-up from the developmental delays caused by early deprivation, especially those adopted before the age of 24 months.

According to the article, "Developmental Recovery and Deficit in Children Adopted from Eastern European Orphanages,- parents reported 61% of children were delayed in three or four areas at their first meeting, while six months later only 8% remained delayed in as many respects.

The sample consisted of children adopted February 1999-January 2000 who were 3- to 57-months-old at the time and had spent an average of 17.9 months in an institution. When the parents were interviewed, their children had been living with them for an average of slightly

over 6 months, and the children's mean age was a little over two years old.

The research, published in *Child Psychiatry and Human Development* 34, No. 1, Fall 2003, discovered that the degree of developmental delay at adoption, the amount of time in the adoptive home and age at placement were associated with recovery.

From an internet posting courtesy of Sonia Kondrat

The Lighter Side

Charlene, my niece, was putting her six-year-old Romanian born adopted son, Darren, to bed one night when he began telling her about his day at school. They had learned how babies were born and he shared the details.

"Is that really how babies are born?" Darren asked when he was finished.

"Yes it is," Charlene replied.

"Boy," he said, "Am I ever glad I came on an airplane!"

From Reader's Digest November '03

Keeping in Touch

We at Caring Homes for Orphan Children have noticed over the years that the majority of adoptive families really want to stay in touch with the wonderful people they meet in Russia but have difficulty with the mail service. In fact, many people report that their letters, photos, and packages never arrive!



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Here are a few suggestions for those who want to keep in touch with the orphanage staff, the interpreter, coordinator or host family.

First, if you think of it beforehand, bring along some blank envelopes, and ask someone there to hand-address them. Parents have found that when their letters and photos were sent in these envelopes, addressed in a "Russian hand," they always reached their destination... the hearts of those wonderful people who really want to hear from you and know how your family is doing.

Second, your agency is often couriering documents to Russia and they may have a package going to your district around the time you want to send pictures and so-on. Also, the next family going to that region can usually hand-deliver your mail, which is a nice touch.

Recently a very clever, quick, convenient and reliable option has arisen: Many adoptive families now use translators within Russia who specialize in bridging this gap. You simply email your pictures and letters to them. For a reasonable fee, they print your photos, translate your letter, and expedite delivery within Russia. They will even similarly process return mail to you! Now that's progress!

One such translation service which is highly recommended by adoptive parents is www.goeastnow.com.



Upcoming Events

Nov. 8, 2003, London, Ont. -- "The Adoption Option, Adopting Internationally": all-day training session for adoptive parents, by four adoption practitioners in the London area. 8:30-4:30. Windermere

Manor, 200 Collip Circle, on the University of Western Ontario campus. Hotel attached for weekend stays. Program covers: Pre/post Placement Process; Risks and Rewards; Loss as a Common Theme; Adjustment - Attachment and Bonding; Adoption as a lifelong process - helping your child adjust and thrive, the mixed-race family and growing up adopted; Adoption Stories - panel of adoptees and adoptive parents. \$250/couple, \$125/single includes lunch, coffee, snacks and resource materials. Good training for adoptive applicants as part of their adoption preparation. Organized by Elly Freund-Bell, Linda McKnight, Kim Gray and Rosanne Ryan. Elly Freund-Bell, 26 Repton Ave., London, 519-675-0362, fax 675-0362, danny.bell@sympatico.ca

Nov 15, 7-10pm and Nov 17, 9:30am-3:30pm, Toronto. The Adoption Paradigm Series 2&3. Perspectives on the role of adoptive parents in toddler or older child adoption. 12 Birch Ave. Suite 210 (Yonge and Summerhill). (416) 964-3669 or 1-888-535-2111.

Nov. 22-23, 2003, Toronto -- Adoption Resource Exchange (A.R.E.), Parents' Weekend, hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services, and the Adoption Council of Ontario. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, www.mtccc.com, 222 Bremner Blvd., South Building, in downtown Toronto. A twice-a-year event aimed at finding homes for Ontario children available for adoption. Prospective adopters can learn about domestic public adoption and talk to social workers at this weekend event. Brochures: ACO, 416-482-0021, aco@adoption.ca. For more, see the ACO web site: www.adoption.on.ca



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Saturday, Nov. 22 Adoption Council of Ontario (ACO), (416) 585-8120, hosts "The Adoption Journey" conference, an exciting and stimulating day of workshops, presentations, displays and networking opportunities, for adoptive applicants, adoptive parents and interested professionals. Agency display booths. Cost for Saturday: \$75/person includes three workshops of your choice, two panel sessions and coffee, tea, juice and snacks. Registration, 8 a.m. Opening session, 8:30. Workshops, 9:15-12:45 and 2:15-3:45. Panel 4-5:30.

WORKSHOPS

- Adoption Options / How to Adopt
- Adoption from a Child's Perspective
- Parenting a Child of a Different Culture
- Tips and Strategies for Building Healthy Attachments
- The Emotional Transition from Infertility to Adoption
- Expanding your Biological Family Through Adoption
- Toddler and Older Child Adoption
- Parenting the Willful Child
- Health Issues in Adoption
- Post-Adoption Resources

Nov. 23, 2003, Toronto -- ACO Families in Adoption support group meeting. 2-4 pm. For adoptive and pre-adoptive families, local and international adoption. Friendly, supportive discussion of adoptive family life issues. Toronto's longest-running adoptive family support group holds meetings every other month at Rosedale United Church, central Toronto. Children's program (infant through school age), so the whole family can attend. New members welcome. Pat Fenton, 416-964-0042.

Nov. 26, 2003, Toronto -- FACE, "Building Self-Esteem". 8 pm. Roding Community Centre, 600 Roding St. Dr. Jean Malloch, ECE Professor, York University, does child assessments, lectures to parents and recommends interventions. FACE support group (Families Adopting Children from Eastern Europe), Lisa Nerman, face.adopt@sympatico.ca, or Louise La Rocca 416-484-4588

Nov 30, 2003, 1-4 pm. Waterloo, Ontario. Caring Homes for Orphan Children is hosting a workshop for anyone interested in adopting from Russia. Agency Director, Arnie Gotfryd, social worker, Marcy Lemon-Lawrence, and adoptive families will share insights, experiences, and information. **Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex 101 Father David Bauer Drive, \$10 per person at the door.**

Dec. 2, 2003, Toronto -- FACE Information Evening, for pre-adoption only. Ask questions about the adoption process from parents who have adopted from Russia, Georgia, Romania, Hungary and the Ukraine. Roding Community Centre, 600 Roding Dr. (Wilson and Keele). FACE support group (Families Adopting Children from Eastern Europe), Lisa Nerman, face.adopt@sympatico.ca, or Louise La Rocca 416-484-4588

