



Adoption: Understanding the Process and Its Impact on Triad Members

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The Thrive Initiative



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Thrive Portfolio Manager

thrive.psu.edu

-  Positive Parenting Practices
-  Parent and Child Stress Management
-  Promoting Healthy Lifestyles



Universal Programming



Thrive Initiative Program Areas			
Universal Parenting Programs			
Take Root	Sprout	Grow	Branch Out
Infants (0 to 6 months)	Preschool (3 to 5 years)	Grades K-5 (5 to 10 years)	Grades 6-12 (10 to 18 years)
Infants (6 to 12 months)			
Infants and Toddlers (1 to 3 years)			
Parenting Programs for High-Needs Populations			
Take Root Home Visitation		Grow Safe and Secure	
Infants and Toddlers (0 to 3 years)		Grades K-5 (5 to 10 years)	





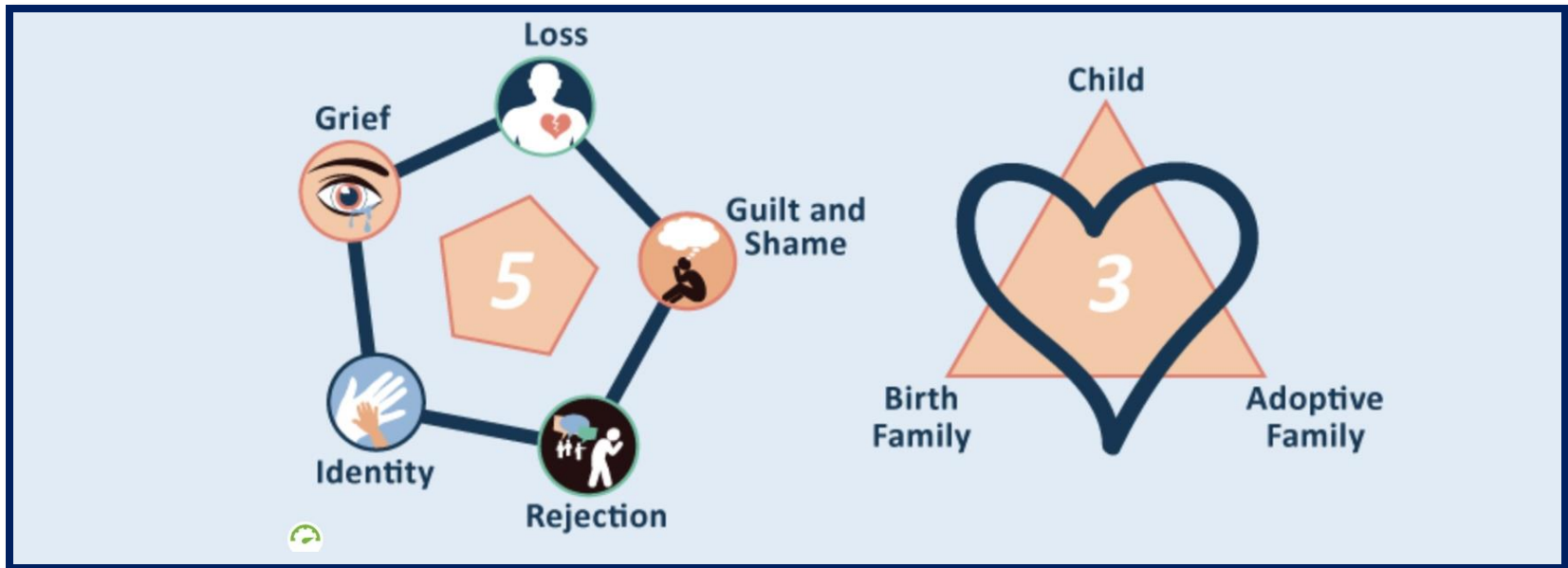
Today's Presenter

Dr. Jennifer Crissman Ishler
Penn State University



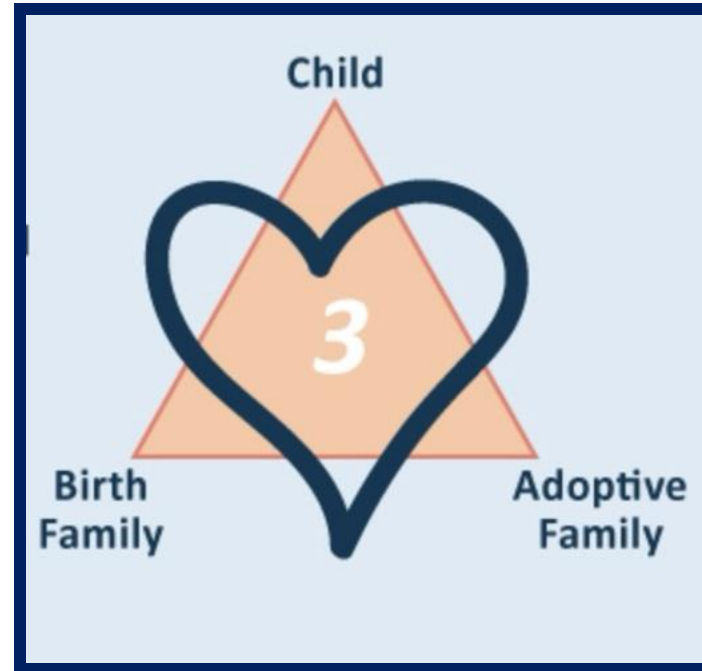
Objectives

- Identify the 3 groups that comprise the adoption triad
- Explore the power of language and its impact on triad members
- Discuss how five core issues surrounding adoption impact each of the triad members
- Examine the different types of adoption
- Review the steps involved to complete an adoption



The Triad

- Birth Parent
- Adoptive Parent
- Adoptee



The Power of Language



- Words are powerful!
 - Example *“giving something up”*
- Power of positive language in adoption

<https://blog.nchs.org/positive-adoption-language>



Say This....Not That



NEGATIVE	POSITIVE
Give up a child	Place a child/make a placement plan
Keep a child	Parent a child
Real parent	Biological parent
Track down my parents	Search for my biological family
Adopted child	My child



Core Adoption Issues

- Identity
- Grief
- Loss
- Guilt/Shame
- Rejection



Roszia, S., & Maxon, A. D. (2019). *Seven core issues in adoption and permanency: A comprehensive guide to promoting understanding and healing in adoption, foster care, kinship families and third-party reproduction*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

**The article discusses 7 issues, but the presentation focuses on the 5 that impact all 3 triad members; the remaining 2 focus only on the adoptees.

Birth Parents & Core Issues



- Timing of core issues
 - Pre-relinquishment
 - Early post-relinquishment
 - Longer term post-relinquishment
- Identity
- Grief
- Loss
 - Secondary losses
- Guilt/shame
- Rejection

Baden, A., & Wiley, M. (2007). Birth parents in adoption. *Handbook of adoption: Implications for researchers, practitioners, and families*, 425-444.



Adoptive Parents & Core Issues



- Identity
- Grief
- Loss
 - Secondary losses
- Guilt/shame
- Rejection



Eriksson, P. K. (2024). Deprived of adoptive parenthood: Recognizing prospective adoptive mothers' pre-adoption loss. *Adoption Quarterly*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926755.2024.2345049>



Adoptees & Core Issues



- Timing of core issues
 - Prenatal
 - Adolescence
 - Adulthood
- Identity
- Grief
- Loss
 - Secondary losses
- Guilt/shame
- Rejection

Brodzinsky, D., Gunnar, M., & Palacios, J. (2022). Adoption and trauma: Risks, recovery, and the lived experience of adoption. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 130, 105309.



Types of Adoption



- Domestic
- International
- Open
- Closed
- Transracial
- From Foster Care
- With Special Needs
- LGBTQ+ Families



Zamostny, K. P., O'brien, K. M., Baden, A. L., & Wiley, M. O. L. (2003). The practice of adoption: History, trends, and social context. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 31(6), 651-678.

Grotevant, H. D. (2020). Open adoption. *The Routledge handbook of adoption*, 266-277.



The Adoption Process – 7 steps



- Step 1: Research and select type of adoption
- Step 2: Chose adoption professional
- Step 3: Complete paperwork
- Step 4: Complete home study
- Step 5: Search for child
- Step 6: Bring child home
- Step 7: Finalize adoption



The Adoption Process – 7 steps (Domestic Adoption)



- Step 1: Research and select type of adoption
- Step 2: Chose adoption professional
- Step 3: Complete paperwork
- Step 4: Complete home study
- Step 5: Search for child
- Step 6: Bring child home
- Step 7: Finalize adoption

Guzzo, K. B., & Hayford, S. R. (2020). Pathways to parenthood in social and family contexts: Decade in review, 2020. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 117-144.



International Adoption



- Advantages
 - Many children are available
 - Good chance adoption will be completed
 - Can select race and gender of the child(ren)
 - Allows broader requirements of adoptive parents
 - Costs are known
 - Most likely travel is involved



International Adoption



- Disadvantages
 - Newborns not available
 - Birth mothers lack of prenatal care
 - Child(ren) may experience developmental delays or have special needs
 - Medical history is unknown of child(ren)
 - Cannot locate birth parents
 - Loss of culture
 - Language barriers
 - Adoption rules of the country can change
 - Expensive
 - Most likely travel is involved



The Adoption Process – 7 steps (International Adoption)



- Step 1: Research and select type of adoption
 - What country?
- Step 2: Chose adoption professional
- Step 3: Complete paperwork
 - 3 Government entities
 - State in which you live
 - US Government
 - Country from which you are adopting
- Step 4: Complete homestudy
- Step 5: Search for child
- Step 6: Bring child home
- Step 7: Finalize adoption
 - Adoption decree
 - US Citizenship

Castner, J., & Foli, K. J. (2022). Racial identity and transcultural adoption. *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 27(1).



Summary



- Triad
- Core issues
- Types of adoption
- Process of adoption

Questions?

Please enter any
questions or
comments into the
chat box.



Adoption: Creating Your Family (coming soon)



- Designed for parents and caregivers considering family expansion through adoption.
- Provides guidance to help parents and families prepare for, understand, and engage in adoption.
- Supports families in navigating the key decisions in creating their family through adoption.

<https://thrive.psu.edu/modules/supplemental/>



Upcoming event: *Father Engagement*



father forward
Present. Engaged. Supportive.

This supplemental parent-education module is designed to provide support for fathers or father figures who have childrearing responsibilities and for coparents and caregivers who parent alongside them.

Fathers can be nurturant, effective caregivers to their children from infancy through adulthood. Engaged fathers can serve as positive role models, encourage healthy risk-taking, and help children learn to manage their emotions. Supporting and encouraging the involvement of a father in their child's life can make the father a better parent, and it can improve outcomes for the child.

This module can help fathers, coparents, and caregivers gain a better understanding of the value fathers can bring to a child's life. It offers insights into the challenges fathers may face as they parent their children, strategies coparents can use to support their child's father and foster the parent-child relationship, and suggestions fathers can consider as they strive to be involved in their child's life. In addition, key takeaways are highlighted throughout the module to demonstrate how fathers and coparents can apply these concepts in real-life situations to support their children and family.



This supplemental module builds on Information and strategies that are discussed in the four universal Thrive parenting programs – *Take Root, Sprout, Grow, Branch Out* – so it is recommended that you participate in the age-appropriate universal Thrive parenting program prior to using the supplemental module.

For more information about the Father Forward supplemental module, visit:

<https://thrive.psu.edu/modules/supplemental>



In this module, you will learn how to do the following:



Understand factors that can influence fathers' experiences.



Examine fathers' impact on their children's cognitive and social-emotional outcomes.



Explore the benefits of father involvement for fathers.



Identify ways that fathers are, or can be, involved with their children.



Understand the unique experiences of divorced and unmarried fathers, and discover ways to foster and support their involvement.



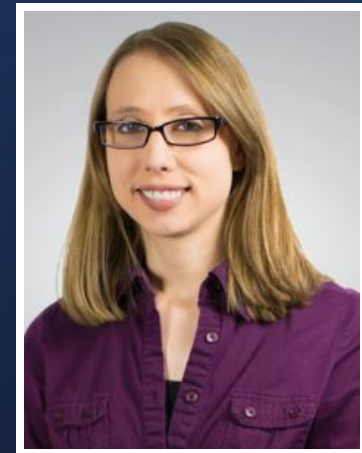
Explore strategies for fathering around parental absences, such as work-related commitments or military-service obligations.



Examine challenges that fathers may face while parenting their children and strategies to help fathers navigate challenges.



Identify self-care activities fathers can use to incorporate healthy practices into their daily routines.



Jennifer Karre, Ph.D.
Research and
Evaluation Scientist

❖ Tuesday, October 22nd

❖ 12 p.m. EDT



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<https://bit.ly/3Xz30WS>

Clearinghouse Office Hours



- Monthly collaborative learning sessions.
- Real-time guidance and resources from researchers and implementation specialists.
- Open to anyone who supports military families
- 30- to 45-minute microlearning sessions over Teams

Monday, September 30th
@ 3pm ET



<https://bit.ly/4e6Nc4y>





Presentation Survey

** Slide deck and recorded presentation will be available on the Thrive website.*

Contact Us



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1.814.865.7412

Thank you for
participating!



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