



National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

The Director's Corner

Greetings,

This November marks [National Adoption Month](#). This year's focus is on keeping siblings together. According to the Children's Bureau, there are some 102,000 children in foster care awaiting adoption. In addition to promoting adoption to qualified families, it's also important to understand how healthy relationship skills benefit not only adoptive parents but also the children they love and care after.

When considering the foundations of a strong family relationship and the responsibilities of parents, it should be no surprise that the same skills required by biological family units extends to adoptive and foster families. The addition of new family members can be both exhilarating and stressful at the same time. Parents and caregivers need to make a conscious effort to develop and maintain effective **communication**. The Resource Center's Virtual Training Center offers **communication** as part of its [Core Healthy Marriage and Relationship Skills \(4 part series\)](#). This short course is appropriate for professionals and individuals.

For more ideas on celebrating National Adoption Month and promoting healthy relationships among adoptive families, we hope you will take advantage of the resources offered in this month's newsletter.

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal, Project Director



Tip of the Month

Your monthly tip to strengthen the relationships of those you serve. *Share it - Post it - Pass it on!*

Family supports such as relationship education training can be of great benefit to adoptive and foster parents. Remember, when families are considering adopting or being foster parents, there is much thought and discussion, and couples working on their relationships may be digging deeply into their own personal history or trauma. Consider including healthy relationship education in foster parent certification programs or as pre- or post-adoption support services. The Resource Center's

research-based [Strong Relationships, Strong Families](#) curriculum is free and available as a PDF or as an online course through the Virtual Training Center.

For tips and tools to promote National Adoption Month visit www.childwelfare.gov and www.adoptuskids.org. Spreading the word about adoption can make a world of difference for the children waiting for caring families and forever homes.



Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected more than 800 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

Select the links below to view our featured November resources:

- [***Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education: What's the Point? \(Podcast\)***](#)
What's the point of healthy marriage and relationship education skills? What impact could integrating these skills have for the families you serve? In this podcast, Resource Center Project Director Robyn Cenizal has a conversation with Dr. Dave Schramm, Ph.D. Associate Professor at the University of Missouri within the Human Development and Family Studies department, and with Colleen Ellingson, Chief Executive Officer at the Coalition for Children, Youth and Families, about addressing these critical issues.
- [***How Relationship Education Leads to Stronger Foster and Adoptive Families. \(Fact Sheet\)***](#)
This fact sheet examines how integrating healthy marriage and relationship education into services for foster and adoptive families is critical to helping families stay together so they can provide a strong base for their children's well-being.
- [***Supporting and Preserving Adoptive Families: Profiles of Publicly Funded Post-Adoption Services \(Library Resource\)***](#)
This report discusses the findings of a study that examined post-adoption services States are providing, who is eligible to receive them, and how they are being funded.



Events

The Resource Center's [Events Calendar](#) offers a listing of Resource Center events and other national, regional, and community-wide events that might be of interest. Upcoming events include:

- [***National Council on Family Relations \(NCFR\) 2014 Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD, November 19-21, 2014***](#): The NCFR is hosting researchers, practitioners and program evaluators, policy makers, community members, etc. to examine the well-being of child and adolescent family members. The multidimensional concept of well-being is associated with individual characteristics, family and social contexts, political and historical contexts, and their interactions. The conference should empower and inform participants to take the next steps to better understand and enhance the well-being of children and adolescents, and, in turn, their families and communities. The Resource Center will be exhibiting at this conference.

Feedback and Technical Assistance:

If you have suggestions or wish to speak with a Resource Center staff member, please [contact us](#)

and we will be happy to assist you. If you would like to request Technical Assistance, please submit a [Training and Technical Assistance Request Form](#) and our Technical Assistance Coordinator will contact you.

To learn more about the Resource Center visit us at www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families supports safety-net service providers as they integrate healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive, culturally appropriate, family-centered approach designed to promote self-sufficiency.

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