

KIDSAKE NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2010

*A Newsletter For Birthmothers, Adoptive Parent, Adoptees  
& Adoption Professionals*

Brought to you by:  
Patricia Dischler  
Author, Speaker, Child Care Professional, Birthmother

[www.patriciadischler.com](http://www.patriciadischler.com)

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*I hope everyone is squeezing every drop of fun out of summer before it's over! I've really enjoyed having a few weeks to spend with my family and not travel. We made a list of all the things we wanted to do before summer ended and made sure they were on the calendar this month. Only one more to cross off – horseback riding with my daughter Amanda, and we're leaving as soon as I get this newsletter out!*

*Surround yourself with family this month,  
Patricia*

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More to Love  
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I am often asked if there was any tension between my son's adoptive mother and I in regards to who holds the title of "Mom." I always grin a little because I get a visual of the two of us, each holding the edge of a golden crown with "Mom" engraved on it, having a tug of war with it. Such a silly thought! I've never been a person that defined people by titles, and that applies to myself. I believe actions and relationships are more powerful than a single word stamped on a person's forehead. So, when I'm asked "What does your son call you?" and I know this loaded questions is referring to that tug of war on a title, my answer is: "I don't care if he calls me Snicklefritz, as long as he picks up the phone and calls me!"

From the beginning, my son's parents recognized the importance of keeping his birthfamily in his life. It may, at first, have been so he had a place to go when he had questions, but I know that after they met us (we had a reunion when Joe was 12) that it became something more. I'm sure that they had worries, like all adoptive parents do, about those roles and titles, and whether or not we'd be vying for them. They didn't really know us yet, and the unknown always breeds fear. So after 12 years of diving into truths, and past the fears through letters, they asked to meet us. Not just me – everyone.

On that day, it was our turn to step up to the plate and show them what we're made of, and I'm proud to say we did just that. It took very little time for Joe's parents to see the role we wanted: someone who loves Joe. Nothing more, nothing less, check the egos and titles at the door. We loved that little boy dearly, we had proved that when we put his needs first and placed hi in their family all those years ago. And all we wanted was the chance to show him more of our love. Not one person in that room cared about a title. What we cared about was Joe. And his parents saw this. Joe's Dad said to me, "How can I deny my son having so many people in his life to love him?" We made a commitment that day to let this love flow freely and grow – and it has.

Titles can fool you. There are women who use the title "Mom" and yet abuse their child. Uncles, Grandpa's, teachers, coaches. When you make a judgement on a person solely based on their title, you're a fool. People are more complex than a single word can ever convey. Being a "birthmother" is only a speck of what defines me. If I had to choose a title for myself, I'd need a few more words – "Someone Who Loves..." would be a good start, but it's really just the beginning of a long paragraph.

Children who are adopted often are filled with questions about their birth family, but the most important one is: Do they love me? My son's parents put aside their fears and titles to find out, and in the process received the gift of love – not only for their son, but for themselves as well. Look at it this way: How many people can you find to love your child? Each one is a gift to your child from you. So why put a limit on this number?

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PARENT CORNER: King for a Day  
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With summer about to end, and the back-to-school days looming around the corner, give your child one last summer hurrah – let them be "King for a Day" (or Queen!). Put aside a day where they make the plan. Before the day arrives, work with them to map out the entire day. Give them a budget for activities, then let them choose the types of things they'd like to do, what they want to eat, etc. Keep it family centered though – no friends. If you have several children, give them each a day. If they know they'll get their chance, they'll cooperate on the

other days. So often a child will ask a parent, “Can we....?” and be met with an answer something like “There’s no time today” or “Maybe next week.” This is their final chance to get what they want on the family agenda. And do more than just let them pick one activity – give them an entire day. Every meal, every minute, should be planned ahead according to what they would like (and within your budget of course!) Your child will really appreciate having their voice heard and seeing that you value their opinions and interests. They’ve got a whole year of school ahead of them – you can give them just one day!

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IN THE NEWS  
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**Great Health and Safety Newsletter for Parents:**

Healthy Childcare Consultants, Inc. has a monthly newsletter packed with info for parents on allergies, recalls, preventing sickness, and many other topics. Check out their website for a myriad of resources and articles and sign up for their newsletter! [www.childhealthonline.org](http://www.childhealthonline.org).

**Article Series Available: Identity Building, Do Kids Need to Know the Past?**

A series of articles by The Ties Program-Adoptive Family Homeland Journeys for adoptive parents planning homeland visits for their children. Series will address:

- How kids respond upon arrival in their birth country.
  - How language (or lack of language) effects the experience.
  - Blending in & standing out – dual identity.
  - How birth country travel validates the child.
- How birth country travel addresses grief and loss that leads to healing.

*AND MUCH MORE!*

To receive the series, please email [info@AdoptiveFamilyTravel.com](mailto:info@AdoptiveFamilyTravel.com) to be added to the list of recipients.

The Ties Program is located in Wauwatosa, WI. Visit [www.AdoptiveFamilyTravel.com](http://www.AdoptiveFamilyTravel.com) for more information.

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THIS MONTH'S SALE ITEMS  
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**August Sale Item: KIDBIZ Trainer’s Guide – Half Day Trainings 20% Off!**

After the incredible response from the NAFCC Train-the-trainer sessions in Nashville, I’ve decided to offer any of my half day Trainer’s Guide’s at a discount so those of you who couldn’t get into my classes (and get the free copy) can get a discount to help you obtain the topics you missed! There are three half day’s available: From Babysitter to Business Owner, Teaching the 3 C’s: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy, and Communicating with Parents 101. Each gives you a 3-4 hour training including: the book it is based on, the power point, lecture,

handouts and outline/objectives – everything you need to present these topics in your area! See the website for complete details on the topics covered.

**Regular Price: \$185 Sale Price: \$148**

**September Sale Item: From Babysitter to Business Owner – 15% Off!**

Boost your professionalism and raise your quality in every area of your business – From Babysitter to Business Owner is everything you need to know to make your business a success, create a high quality program, and build successful relationships with parents. This book was a key resource for the creation of the BAS, and is considered “the bible for every family child care provider” by many Resource and Referral agencies across the country. If you are a family child care provider, you need this book! If you are a resource and referral agency that wants to raise the professionalism of providers in your area – give them this book! Packed with no nonsense advice based on my 17 years as a provider, I promise you this book will help you avoid mistakes and get you to the top of your game quickly!

**Regular Price: \$17.95 Sale Price: \$15.26**

**Order yours today at: [www.patriciadischler.com](http://www.patriciadischler.com) or [www.KIDBIZResources.com](http://www.KIDBIZResources.com)!**

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UPCOMING EVENTS  
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August – *Spending time with my family, see you in September!!*

September 7, 2010

Nick Lawrence Radio Show

WEEU Radio 830 AM

Reading, Pennsylvania

*Open Adoption*

For more information visit: [www.weeu.com](http://www.weeu.com)

September 11, 2010

Child Care Directors Symposium

Full Day Training for FCC Providers: *From Babysitter to Business Owner:*

*Turning the Job You Love Into the Career You'll Keep!*

Austin, Texas

For more information call: Workforce Solutions, 512-597-7198

September 25, 2010

*Family Child Care Mentor Training*

Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

For more information visit: [www.wecanaeyc.org](http://www.wecanaeyc.org)

If you are a member of a group planning a training event and would like to book one of my keynotes or workshops, visit the Lecture page on my website and contact me for availability. Visit [www.patriciadischler.com/lecture.php](http://www.patriciadischler.com/lecture.php).

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Patricia Dischler  
Author, *From Babysitter to Business Owner, Because I Loved You, Tips and Tricks* and *The Patty Cake Kids & The Lost Imagination Cap*.  
[www.patriciadischler.com](http://www.patriciadischler.com)

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