

KIDSAKE NEWSLETTER
October 2010

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

Brought to you by:
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*Since my book, **Because I Loved You**, is on sale this month, I thought I'd share the article I wrote that best sums it up. This was my first article in Adoption Today magazine and led to getting my column, Birthmother's Perspective. It's still one of my favorite articles, I hope you enjoy it too.*

Patricia

Open Adoption: Strangers Who Trust In Each Other For The Sake Of A Child

You know that game that counselors like to make you play, where you stand with your back to someone, close your eyes, and fall backwards – trusting the person will catch you and not let you fall? This is what open adoption can feel like in the beginning, except you have no reason to trust in the person who is suppose to catch you because it's a stranger. They haven't done anything to gain your trust – and likewise, you've done nothing to earn their trust in you. Blindly, a birthmother trusts in the strangers to love her child as their own, to let her know he's happy and to never deny her existence. Likewise, adoptive parents trust in a stranger to give up her child, to make them a family, and to never tear them apart.

Taking this first step of blind trust takes enormous courage, respect and love. This is the foundation successful open adoptions are built on. But after those first steps are taken, a birthmother releases her child into the care of another, and adoptive parents open a line of communication to reassure the birthmother of her child's happiness, step by step trust is built, respect grows, and the love that brought everyone into this arrangement blossoms for the benefit of a child.

It's been 20 years since I took that first frightful step. My son was born on April 5, 1985. It was a time when the term "open adoption" was virtually unknown. Those who were trying to start communications between adoptive families and birthparents had no road map to follow, no guarantees. It was simply a new idea that sprung from the pain and regret that closed adoptions had created. The idea that birthmothers who relinquished their children could forget it, put it

behind them and move on with life was proven to be wrong over and over again. Birthmothers could no more forget their children than they could forget they have legs.

For me, I knew I could not let go of my son without knowing he was loved and happy. I needed some way of confirming that I had made the right choice. I put too much love and sacrifice into making the choice for adoption to just leave my son's life to chance after his birth. All I had to offer my son was love. No home, no father, no income. Just love. The realization of this brought me to my decision. I loved my son enough to put his needs before my own. Keeping him would be for ME. Giving him a home and a family, choosing adoption, would be the best for HIM. Working with my counselor, I knew the family I chose for my son had a home, I knew he would have a mother and a father, I knew they would be able to provide for him, what I didn't know was if they would love him.

I HAD to know. I needed to know. There was no way I would be able to live with myself until I knew. I waited a full year. When the package came I tore it open, photos of my son, their son, smiling, laughing, sleeping peacefully, floated to my lap. There were two letters, one from his father, one from his mother. They expressed their love, their gratitude, their joy. To further express their gratitude, they offered me the one gift they could give: they baptized my son with the name I had given him in the hospital. By doing so they not only honored the fact that Joseph's life had begun with me, but allowed him to keep a piece of those precious few days with him always. I thought it was perfect. He wasn't just my Joe anymore, he was their Joe too. In her letter, his mother wrote: "children are not really ever ours, they are just entrusted to us for a time by God." I had taken my leap of faith with her; she now was taking her leap of faith with me. I could not have respected her more for it.

For twelve years we took those steps together, we openly shared our hopes, our dreams, and our fears. We learned to trust, to respect and to love each other, and by example, our son grew to trust, respect and love. At the age of 12 he requested to meet me face to face. His parents and I shared our fears at reuniting at such a young age, but ultimately decided to trust in each other, and Joe, and we made it happen. Holding Joe in my arms again was one of most amazing moments of my life. I cried, I kissed the top of his head, I cried some more, then I remembered he was still just a child and this blubbering woman suffocating him was probably scaring the pants of him! I backed off, and we started to talk. The next day we had some time to talk alone and when I asked him why he wanted to meet me (fearing that dreaded question, "why did you give me up?") his answer was simply, "I missed you."

On the day he graduated from high school, we celebrated our journey together. All the years of questioning my choice were washed away as I listened to his accomplishments and watched the joy and pride in his eyes. During the ceremony his principal asked all those who had loved and supported the graduates in their journey to this moment, their parents, to stand and be recognized. I thought of Joe's parents and how thankful I was that he had them. Joe's father was on my left, his mother on my right. They each looked at me, took hold of my hands – and we stood together.

Open adoption is no longer a destination without a plan. It's found a happy ending and those entering into this arrangement today have stories such as mine to guide them on their journey. While it still requires the courage to step in front of a stranger and trust in them to catch you, knowing the potential for love and respect will give you the strength to go ahead, and fall.

[Because I Loved You: A Birthmother's View of Open Adoption is ON SALE THE MONTH! Visit: www.patriciadischler.com.](http://www.patriciadischler.com)

PARENTS CORNER: The Card Game

Last month I shared the Alphabet Game, where you put the alphabet on cards to give to your child on your next shopping trip and keep them occupied while also expanding their learning development. This month, it's simple: take that game a

step farther. Create cards with colors on them, numbers on them, whatever it is you'd like your child to be focusing on! The list is endless: emotions, sizes, sounds, settings, etc. Each time you need to take your child out on an errand, give them a set of the cards and they have an instant "treasure hunt" to go on, making the trip fun for them and less of hassle for you!

For more great tips, check out my booklet: "101 Tips & Tricks: Ideas to make your job easier, save you money and save you time in your child care business! (Also great for parents!) At: www.patriciadischler.com/books.htm.

IN THE NEWS

Adoption Resources of Wisconsin is offering a webinar titled: African American Hair Care, October 21, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., visit www.wiadopt.org to register!

THIS MONTH'S SALE ITEMS

October Sale Item: Because I Loved You

A roadmap for anyone touched by the adoption process, this is the ONLY book written about open adoption from a birthmother's point of view giving new insight to the adoption process. Part resource, part memoir, this book provides keys to success for any adoption. Endorsed by 5 national adoption agencies and used nationwide by pregnancy counseling centers, this book not only will help guide birthmothers in their unplanned pregnancy choices, but provide insight to adoptees as to what it takes for a birthmother to follow through on the choice for adoption, and give adoptive parents the secret to success in building their family by providing them with the missing puzzle piece of their adopted child's life. The story will make you cry, laugh, and understand that families are built by love.

Regular Price: \$16.95 Sale Price \$12.00

November Sale Item: Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy, 1 Year Anniversary 20% Off!

Do more than just fill your kids minds with information, teach them what to DO with it! Building a base of learning success is as easy as infusing your lesson plans with activities that expand a child's imagination and problem solving skills, get them excited about their own learning, and teach them to be successful in their relationships, in other words: Before you can teach them the 3 Rs, you've got to teach them the 3 Cs! This resource is filled with dozens of activities that strengthen a child's natural ability to be creative, curious and courteous. Indexed by state standard areas to make creating your lesson plans easy!

Regular Price: \$25.95 Sale Price: \$20.76

Order yours today at: www.patriciadischler.com or www.KIDBIZResources.com!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9, 2010

NAFCC Accreditation

Madison, Wisconsin

For more information visit: www.wecanaeyc.org

October 30, 2010

NAFCC Accreditation

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

For more information visit: 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.

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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*.

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