



Welcome Home

Theo— China

Genesis – US

Bruce— Haiti

Maddox—US

We would love
to
feature a photo
of your child in
our newsletter.
Please be sure
to send us sub-
missions to
include at
jenn@kcr.ca.

Winter Newsletter

November 2015 - February 2016

Update on Domestic Program.....

We had a flurry of activity in the spring/summer of 2015 with 6 placements happening one right after the other! Since then the program has been quiet with a few birth moms making initial contact but not following through to make an adoption plan. We have been actively promoting the program through doctors offices, hospitals, pregnancy care centres, community resource centres, etc. and will continue to do so throughout the year. We are hopeful that Spring will generate some more activity from birth parents who are interested in adoption. In the meantime, please know that we understand it is difficult to wait and wonder if/when you will be chosen.

Adoption News

Update on Haiti from Marni.....

The Haiti program is going well, just very slowly! We have now received a total of 9 proposals since our program re-opened. Two adoptions have been completed, and one child is home in Canada. We have several proposals that we know are close to arriving.

At this point families should expect to wait at least two years from the time their dossier arrives in Haiti to receive a proposal, and up to a year for it to be completed and the child to come home. There have been many changes to the laws in Haiti and every change takes a long time to implement. Haiti has a limitation on the number of applications they will accept each year, but if you are interested please contact us to determine if there are spots available. If you are interested in this program please bring your hope, love and lots of

PATIENCE!!

Remember

We work with US, South Africa, Haiti, and Bulgaria.

Be sure to call us to learn about any of these inter-country programs.

Reminder:

Stay connected with ACBC by making sure that you "LIKE" us on **FACEBOOK!**

This is where we post information on countries to adopt from, educational opportunities as well as support group opportunities!

Join now!!



Remember where we are:

255 Lawrence Ave., Kelowna BC

Monday– Friday; 8:30-4:30 (closed for lunch 12-1)

8 things to do within 30 minutes of meeting your child

When adopting or fostering a child past infancy, parents anticipate the first meeting and worry about what to do and say that will put their child (and themselves) at ease.

1. Lower yourself to the height of the child when you are talking.
2. Gently and respectfully look him in the eye. If he looks away, he is expressing discomfort with the intensity. You look away when he does, then gently re-establish eye contact.
3. If your child does not speak your language, learn a few phrases in his language that you can say when you first meet him, such as "hello", "I'm so glad to meet you", "Do you need to use the bathroom", and "Are you hungry".
4. When you bring the child to your home for the first time, remember the power of smell to soothe a frightened child. A great trick from Dr. Karyn Purvis is to freeze some cookie dough ahead of time so you can pull it out to bake as soon as the child arrives.
5. Show the child around your house as soon as possible.
6. Your goal is to give your child a voice as soon as she arrives by giving her simple choices. For example, as you are showing her around the house ask if she would like to hold your hand or walk beside you.
7. If your child does not speak your language, provide a picture board to help him express his needs and wants. Arrange for a translator sometime that first week.
8. Provide food and water soon after arrival because food can calm a frightened child, and research has shown that children from hard places are often dehydrated.

Newly adopted children's brains are on fire with fear. Our job as a parent is to calm this fear from the moment you first meet.

SOURCE:

[Dr. Karyn Purvis \(Guest Speaker\) on Creating a Family Radio Show](#)

Remember Who's Who.....

Just so that you don't forget who's here to assist you....

Jennifer Wall—Agency Administrator

Marni King—Part time social worker

Deanna Notte—Part time social worker

Vickie Harvey— Part time Program Assistant

Diane Wiseman—Part time Administrative Assistant.