



2023 PACT WEBINARS

Pact proudly presents our child-centered, race-conscious, honesty-based 2023 webinar series. Learn about the complex intersections of adoption, race, family, and parenting, from proven leaders in the field. Each 90-minute webinar is specifically designed for members of the adoption constellation and includes content for pre-adopters, professionals, adoptees and first/birth parents.

Pact offers two types of webinars:

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion Receive a pre-recorded webinar to view prior to attending a live conversation and Q&A session. Live discussions (11:00am-12:30pm Pacific time) led by Pact’s staff experts allow you to further explore the information shared in the webinar, ask your own questions, and get direct answers.

Live Webinars • (11:00am-12:30pm Pacific time) are presented in real time, and include a brief Q&A period facilitated via chat. Registrants receive a recording afterwards, whether or not they were able to attend.

Cost: \$38.50/webinar (Pact members receive a 20% discount) • Register and join: www.pactadopt.org

January 18, 2023

Voices of the Triad: First/Birth Parents

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker and discussion facilitator: Susan Dusza Guerra Leksander

In the world of adoption, first/birth parents are often talked about or spoken for, but rarely heard from directly, about their lived experiences. In this webinar, you hear from a panel of first/birth parents as they discuss the many complexities of adoption from their own perspective.

Target audience: All triad members and professionals

February 15, 2023

Voices of the Triad: Adoptees

Live Webinar

Lead speaker: Katie Wynen

Deepen your knowledge of adoption by learning from adopted people—the first, most important, voices to hear from about the experience of being adopted. In this webinar, adopted adults of color discuss the role their first/birth parents and families have had in understanding their own identity, as well as what they believe is important for adoptive parents to know. Featured speakers will include those adopted domestically and internationally, into both transracial and same-race placements.

Target audience: All triad members and professionals

March 8, 2023

Living Open Adoption: Practical Guidance for Making It Work

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker: Lori Holden
Discussion facilitator: Susan DG Leksander

To better serve the needs of adopted children, open adoption was created as an alternative to the challenges of closed adoption—but open adoption brings new challenges, for both adoptive and birth parents. With the three simple shifts covered in this webinar, you can develop a new mindset and strategy to guide you in your open adoption parenting. Practical tips and examples for managing open relationships are included.

Target audience: Adoptive parents and first/birth parents, professionals

April 5, 2023

What to Expect 10-12: Adopted Tweens

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker and discussion facilitator: Beth Hall

Learn how adopted tweens are developing new analytical abilities, and beginning to explore new ideas, identities, and world views. They are getting messages from media and peers that they should begin to separate from their family, but most of them are not emotionally ready to do so. Understanding what is happening, and why, really does help!

Target audience: Adoptive parents, first/birth parents, professionals

April 19, 2023

What to Expect 13-18: Adopted Teens

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker and discussion facilitator: Beth Hall

Parenting teens can require deep wells of patience, and challenge you to suspend judgment and listen closely. Explore how adoption and racial identity formation add to the mix of issues that teens and their parents are navigating. Topics covered include general identity formation, adoption identity, and racial identity.

Target audience: Adoptive parents, first/birth parents, professionals

May 17, 2023

Talking With Children about Adoption

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker: Malaika Parker
Discussion facilitator: Beth Hall

It’s critically important that you become comfortable talking about all the complexities of adoption with adopted children—the sorrows as well as the joys. Learn developmentally-appropriate strategies for talking with children about adoption, first families, and loss.

Target audience: Prospective and current adoptive parents, first/birth parents, professionals



June 7, 2023

Healthy Relationships in Adoption: Empathy, Honesty & Responsiveness

Live Webinar

Lead speaker: Susan DG Leksander

Open adoption and openness in adoption do not “solve” all the challenges of being adopted. They present different opportunities and challenges for the adoptee, requiring both sets of parents to develop specific attitudes and skills to best support them as they navigate information about and relationships with first/birth families, while being strongly rooted in their adoptive/foster family. How can first/birth and adoptive/foster families grow with the needs of their child? What does it look like to keep the adoptee at the center, supporting them in deciding who their people are, what kind of closeness or distance they want, and how to communicate their needs?

Target audience: Prospective and current adoptive parents, first/birth parents, professionals

August 16, 2023

Adoption, Race & Schools

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker: Malaika Parker
Discussion facilitator: Beth Hall

Our children spend more time at school than almost anywhere else. Inevitably, they will encounter racism and adoptism. How can you get support to address these issues, and how can you educate your child's teachers? Topics covered include the challenges and opportunities that arise in virtual learning environments.

Target audience: Adoptive parents, professionals

September 20, 2023

Dear White People: Antiracist Adoptive Parenting

Live Webinar

Lead speaker: Beth Hall

This webinar is for white adoptive parents ready to interrogate their own racism, talk about race with their children, and do something about racism now. No matter what your child's race, learn how to talk with them about all “-isms,” including anti-Black and Brown racism and our country's history of white supremacy. Remember, silence speaks volumes. All of us, and white people in particular, have to push beyond self-examination into action. We will talk about tools and models for how to embrace an antiracist approach to parenting across racial lines.

Target audience: White adoptive parents, professionals

October 11, 2023

What to Expect 2-5: Adopted Pre-Schoolers

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker and discussion facilitator: Beth Hall

What is your little one thinking and feeling about adoption? Preschoolers are very concrete thinkers. They are just beginning to learn about things like “same and different” and to apply their new understanding to everything, including friends and family. Each stage of their development will challenge you to grow along with them!

Target audience: Adoptive parents, first/birth parents, professionals

November 1, 2023

Adoptive-Sensitive Language and Rituals

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker and discussion facilitator: Katie Wynen

Are you doing everything you can to make adopted children and adults welcome in your family and community? The language we use and the rituals we perform communicate our values. Words and rituals send powerful messages to children and adults, underscoring what we consider important. Learn about adoption-sensitive language and the impact it can have, and why adoptive families may choose to modify their rituals or create new ones.

Target audience: All triad members and professionals

November 15, 2023

Conversations about Adoption in and with Communities of Color

Live Webinar

Lead speaker: Raquel Vivanco

Explore the history, traditions and themes of adoption in communities of color and particularly adoptive families headed by people of color. Topics covered include talking about adoption when families “match,” developing strategies for building and maintaining connection with first families, addressing and challenging stereotypes and preconceptions about adoption, and navigating the complexities of those misunderstandings within our own communities.

Target audience: BIPOC triad members and all professionals who work with them

December 6, 2023

What to Expect 6-9: Adopted School-Age Kids

Digging Deeper: Viewing + Live Discussion

Lead webinar speaker and discussion facilitator: Beth Hall

Learn how children at this age use their developing conceptual skills to figure out how and why adoption happened to them. Having differences in family structure and/or racial identification pointed out can make elementary school kids uncomfortable. Practical advice about how to navigate new peer relationships and school challenges will be addressed.

Target audience: Adoptive parents, first/birth parents, professionals

Pact is a different kind of adoption organization, serving adopted children of color and their families. Check out our honest, child-centered, anti-racism education and support opportunities at www.pactadopt.org

These and many more webinar recordings are available for purchase on our website.

Pact also offers support groups (free for members) for adoptive parents of color, adult adoptees of color, transracial adoptive parents, parents of teens and young adults of color and first/birth parents.

