

2024 PACT WEBINARS



Continue your lifelong journey of adoption with Pact's honest, anti-racist, child-centered education programs. Deepen your knowledge about adoption and its intersection with race and family, learning from leaders in the field. Each 90-minute webinar covers material specifically designed for members of the adoption constellation and includes additional programming for pre-adopters and professionals.

Pact's Offers Two Types Of Webinars:

Digging Deeper consists of a pre-recorded talk, followed by a live conversation and Q&A session. Live sessions, led by Pact staff experts, are great opportunities for you to further explore the information shared in the webinar, ask questions, and get direct answers.

Live Webinars are presented in real time, with a concise Q&A period facilitated through the chat feature. All live webinars are recorded and shared with registrants after the actual event; you do not need to be present to receive your recording.

Webinar Time: 11:00 am-12:30 pm Pacific time.

Cost and Registration: \$38.50, with a 20% discount for Pact members. Become a Pact member today for \$75 per year. Registration and membership available at: www.pactadopt.org

JANUARY 17, 2024

Digging Deeper: Voices of the Triad: Adoptees

Lead Speaker & Conversation Facilitator:
Katie Wynen

Do you want to deepen your knowledge of adoption by learning from the foremost experts? Pact firmly believes that adopted people—not adoptive parents—are the first, most important voices to hear from about the experience of being adopted. In this webinar, adopted adults of color share parts of their lifelong adoption journey. This will include discussion of the role their first/birth parents and families have had in their lives and 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

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Digging Deeper: Healthy Open Adoption Relationships: Empathy, Honesty & Responsiveness

Lead Speaker & Conversation Facilitator:
Susan Dusza Guerra Leksander

Open adoption and openness in adoption do not "solve" all the challenges of being adopted. Rather, they present

different opportunities and challenges for the adoptee, requiring both sets of parents to develop specific attitudes and skills to best support the adoptee, as they navigate information about and relationships with first/birth families, while being rooted in their adoptive/foster family. What qualities do adults need to develop, to be of service to the children they love? How can first/birth and adoptive/foster families grow with the needs of their child? What does it look like to walk this path, keeping 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

MARCH 6, 2024

Live Webinar: Ambiguous Loss

Lead Speaker: Susan Dusza Guerra Leksander

The losses experienced by adoptees are a type of experience called "ambiguous loss." This is thought to be the most difficult type of loss because there is no finality, closure or obvious path to resolution, and society does not have rituals or ways to acknowledge the person who is grieving an ambiguous loss. Adopted people must learn to live with their losses, often by finding a way to make sense out of the ambiguity,

since the grief itself cannot be resolved. Fortunately, there are orientations to ambiguous loss that can help an adopted person build resilience and a strong identity, and even find meaning and hope.

Target audience: All triad members and professionals

APRIL 10, 2024

Digging Deeper: Art of Attachment: Using Sensory Strategies as a Key to Connection

Lead Speaker & Conversation Facilitator:
Dr. Laura Anderson

Attachment is the cornerstone of connection, healing, and harmony in an adoptive family. This workshop provides some understanding of the way that children with trauma histories and/or attachment disruptions can have differing brain and body chemistry, including differently developed sensory integration systems. Understanding your child as a sensory being can provide important hints at finding ways to soothe, and connect with them. The goal of this workshop is to explore issues related to sensory processing, and assist adoptive parents in finding concrete sensory integration strategies that are trauma informed and strengthen attachment.

Target audience: All triad members including pre-adoptive parents and professionals



MAY 1, 2024

Digging Deeper: Adolescent Brain Development: Understanding Tweens and Teens

Lead Speaker & Conversation Facilitator: Beth Hall

Adolescence is hard and complicated for everyone, and even more so for adopted teens of color. Learn how to understand the many changes taking place in the brains, bodies, and emotions of your beloved, frustrating tweens and teens so you can help your adopted child navigate these changes and the intersections with their experiences of race, adoption, foster care, and/or trauma.

Target audience: Foster or adoptive parents of tweens and teens of color (ages 10-19)

MAY 15, 2024

Live Webinar: Adoptees of Color in Same-Race Adoptions

Lead Speaker: Katie Wynen

Adopted BIPOC in same-race placements sometimes grow up in and are part of a family who could “pass” as their family of origin. Hear from the truest experts with lived experience, adoptees themselves, as they explore the complexities around “invisible” adoptions for people of color, the nuances around perceived and shared culture, traditions and histories, and their journeys toward embracing their whole and true selves, including their connections to birth family. Panel will include adoptees placed through foster care, private adoption and international adoption.

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

JUNE 5, 2024

Digging Deeper: Talking With Children about Adoption

Lead Speaker: Malaika Parker, Conversation Facilitator: Katie Wynen

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

AUGUST 21, 2024

Digging Deeper: Dear White People: Antiracist Adoptive Parenting

Lead Speaker & Conversation Facilitator: 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, Brown and Asian 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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Live Webinar: Adoption and Schools

Lead Speaker: Beth Hall

To tap into the full potential of adopted and fostered children of color, educators must not only confront their racial biases, they must become adoption-literate and trauma-informed. Academic ability and learning differences are often misinterpreted by both parents and educators. This conversation will include the voices of the foremost experts on the experience of being adopted: adoptees of color, ages 10 to 17, speaking about their experiences to give us a deeper understanding of how schools work and how schools understand/misunderstand our children. A specific focus will be on how schools can be pushed to best serve all children and particularly adopted children of color.

Target audience: Teachers, school administrators, parents

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

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

OCTOBER 9, 2024

Digging Deeper: Parents of Color: Talking to Children about Race and Racism

Lead Speaker: Malaika Parker, Conversation Facilitator: Raquel Vivanco

Adoptive parents of color join in a practical discussion about how to talk to children of color about race. Topics covered include developmental milestones, cultural context, social narratives, and strategies for maintaining joy and pride despite it all. Parents share strategies they like to support their children.

Target audience: Pre- and post-adoptive parents of color, professionals working with pre- and post-adoptive parents of color

NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Digging Deeper: Adoptive-Sensitive Language and Rituals

Lead Speaker & Conversation 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

DECEMBER 4, 2024

Live Webinar: Transracial Adoption for BIPOC Adoptive Parents

Lead Speaker: Raquel Vivanco

It is becoming more frequent for BIPOC adoptive parents to form families across race and/or ethnic lines. Communities of color have experiences that are sometimes similar, sometimes quite different. Join us for a conversation about how our own histories and perceptions influence parenting children of color whose race/ethnicity we do not share, including the challenges and support required to navigate racism and adoptism in our own communities.

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

