

JULY 26, 2016

ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEEDED FOR BROTHER-SISTER DUO

Britteyn and Ella can't wait to find their forever home with parents who love to be active and playful.

Britteyn, 8, and Ella, 3, are looking for a family that can provide a loving home for both of them, though Britteyn wouldn't mind having more siblings his age or older.



Ella has a bubbly personality, with a great imagination. She loves swimming, going to the park, and doing hair, and she wants a family that will play dolls and house with her. Britteyn is a very smart and helpful kid, whose favorite food is "everything." He loves sports and wants to ride horses someday.

The adults in Ella's life report that she is doing great in daycare, and Britteyn is excelling in school and can't wait to start the third grade this fall.

Prospective families for Britteyn and Ella can be from any state, though they would need to be able to maintain a relationship with Britteyn and Ella's current foster family. Parents should understand how domestic violence impacts children, and provide the love, patience, support this brother-sister duo deserves.

Britteyn wants parents he can trust to take good care of his little sister. Will you be their forever family?

[LEARN MORE](#)

6 WAYS TO DEAL WITH REJECTION FROM WOUNDED CHILDREN

Dealing with rejection from your child is an uphill battle. No parent wants to face this. We want to believe we can love them through their trauma. How do you successfully parent your child but deal with their rejection at the same time?

"WE had FUN with DAD," hissed my daughter, as she met me at the door with an angry sneer. Her glare and belittling tone once again communicated, what seemed to be, sheer hatred of me. We had just returned from camping at the Lewis and Clark Trail State Park. My husband had secretly given me the choice of driving the nice, newer car with our three children or the old, Ford Escort carrying the smelly Newfoundland dog, whose rancid stench had come from playing in the river all weekend. I chose the dog.

Her words hardly represented an isolated jab. In fact, she had been doling out insults like candy for months, finding any way she could, to verbally assault me. Later, I cried into my husband's shoulder. Between heaving sobs and strings of slobber I said, "I can't do this anymore! I just can't take one more jab!"

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It is powerful for children
to know that they are
LOVED & ADORED
even in the midst of
their worst behaviors.

- Dr. Karen Purvis -

WHEN FAMILY TURNS AGAINST YOU: PARENTING KIDS WITH TRAUMA

Written By Carrie O'Toole

We had just been out to dinner with family to celebrate a birthday. Getting ready had been a nightmare with the incessant questions, observations, and nonsense chatter. The ride there consisted of arguing and trying to calm everyone's anxiety. During dinner, my uncle scolded me for not controlling my child better, "He just needs a good swat on the read end." They don't understand. This isn't how you parent a child with early trauma.

"No one believes me."

I've heard this hundreds of times. Clients share their stories of parents or other family members who used to respect them, suddenly turning against them after they bring a child with a history of trauma into their homes.

Here's how it works: Before a child with trauma entered your family, everyone saw you as a loving, skilled, intelligent human being. You were humble, in fact, you sought wisdom and counsel. When you struggled and asked for help, you examined your part in the problem, listened to the advice of others, and made changes. You did the hard work of growth. People respected you.

Then trauma entered the picture.

Please hear me. I am not attacking the traumatized child. The child did not cause this to happen. They didn't wish it on themselves. It's absolutely NOT their fault. Trauma changes people. It rewires brains. It causes children who are made to connect and attach and allow their parents to care for them to fight as if their lives depend on it.

Mom is not safe, in their wounded little eyes. She is the enemy. Love is scary. Trust is almost impossible. If they let you in, they believe they will die. So they fight you on everything. But usually not in front of other people.

In front of Grandma and Grandpa (and teachers, pastors, coaches, your best friends) they are the masters of charm. Everyone loves them. They don't show the terror inside them, which presents itself in lying, manipulating, cruelty, injury to self or others, destruction, rages, refusal to do the most basic things. They aren't living in fight or flight mode when others are around. No one sees it but you.

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IFAPA TRAININGS

CALMING THE TRAUMA STORM

The trauma storm is one that is fierce at times, trying to destroy. Most people don't understand the velocity, the frequency and the damage it can cause. During this class we will cover some basic trauma and attachment information and discuss the ACES study. This course then shifts into where the trauma storms can be and what can be done: a storm with the child, with the spouse or caregivers, with relatives, with neighbors, with DHS, with other siblings, with the school, with therapies and medication, with the community or with respite. We will cover information and strategies that will help with the intensity, the frequency, and the duration of the trauma storm.

DAVENPORT Sat., July 30 (9am-12:15pm)

IOWA CITY Sat., Aug. 13 (9am-12:15pm)

FORT DODGE Sat., Aug. 27 (9am-12:15pm)

SIOUX CITY Sat., Sept. 17 (9am-12:15pm)

TIME TO GET THE SCHOOLS ON BOARD

When students spend such a large portion of their childhood in school it is imperative that the school system is on board and educated about working with children exposed to trauma. This presentation will cover a quick overview of trauma and attachment issues, how trauma impacts the brain, and how learning can be impaired. Discussing specific strategies across the developmental spectrum, this knowledge can be transferred into the school system to help traumatized children be more successful and help families feel less alone.

DAVENPORT Sat., July 30 (1:15pm-4:30pm)

IOWA CITY Sat., Aug. 13 (1:15pm-4:30pm)

FORT DODGE Sat., Aug. 27 (1:15pm-4:30pm)

SIOUX CITY Sat., Sept. 17 (1:15pm-4:30pm)

TO REGISTER - CALL 800-277-8145
OR **[REGISTER ONLINE](#)**