

JANUARY 23, 2018

## Hope for the Angry Child.....

**Written By: Rachel Macy Stafford - Hands Free Mama Blog**

I haven't spoken of this experience for over fifteen years; I have definitely never written about it. Yet, when the memories of this time came rushing back, I had to pull off the highway and find a gas station where I could scribble my notes. It's taken four weeks to transform my notes into readable form, but I have no doubt the timing of this message is perfect for someone reading today. This is my story...and Vince's\* story.

I had just one year of teaching under my belt and was taking classes towards my master's degree in special education. Though barely qualified to teach students with challenging behavior disorders, I quickly assessed that academic training wasn't going to make me a successful teacher—it had more to do with the connections I made with my students.

The way this particular school set up its special education program for behaviorally challenged students allowed me to form lasting bonds with my students. Rather than having a self-contained classroom, I had one-on-one time with each of my sixteen students throughout the school day. By providing direct support to the children and their teachers, the school district believed these exceptional students could be successfully mainstreamed into a tradition classroom. Furthermore, it was not unusual for me to work with a particular student for multiple years.

Such was the case with Vince. Vince had compliance and anger issues but we had made significant strides in our first year together. Vince was an adorable child who looked forward to our one-on-one lessons and my frequent check-ins to his regular classroom.

On this particular evening, a typical event for a new school year was taking place. It was "Meet the Teacher" night. All the teachers were lined up, preparing to walk across the stage as we were introduced. As we waited for the principal to take the podium, I noticed Vince's mother making her way through the crowded gymnasium. She was coming straight toward me in breathless haste.

When she spoke, I thought I did not hear her correctly – there was no way I could have heard her right. As the blood drained from my face, I leaned closer praying I had misheard. Vince's mother repeated the words that seemed incomprehensible, unbearable, and repulsive to my ears. **CONTINUE READING** \*Name has been changed

## \$300 for Teens in Foster Care

AMP has special money from Chafee Funds for teens (age 14 and up) in foster care. These grants are available for up to \$300 per youth until June 30, 2018.

**[LEARN HOW TO APPLY](#)**

## Friends Program

IFAPA offers grants up to \$200 for certain items for kids in foster care up to age 13 — items such as gymnastics classes, instrument rental, etc.

**[Click Here to Learn More](#)**

When your child is too scared to fall asleep, it can be a major issue. Your child is losing precious sleep time.

**Here are 10 great ways to help your child feel more comfortable and face that fear!**

MY CHILD IS  
**TOO SCARED TO SLEEP**



## What RAD Means to Me

**Written By: Shivonne Costa**

Each child is unique... And that includes each child with RAD (Reactive Attachment Disorder). Whether your child was adopted, fostered, separated from you due to various circumstances such as hospitalizations for you or baby during those formative years, or born with another disorder that made attachment impossible early on, how we got here is sometimes our focus. It's easy to place blame, point fingers, or feel like the victim. It's easy, because we are human and we are up against insurmountable odds, day in and day out.

As parents raising these kids, we often feel like we stand in the crossfire of our children and the world. However the situation came to be, we all wake up each morning with a mindset different from that of parents raising children who attach freely. We are the warriors who face endless ridicule from the ones we raise as well as from the society we live in.

And so, in honor of my fellow parents of children with this difficult diagnosis, let me tell you what RAD means to me.

**[CONTINUE READING](#)**

## COMMON TAX QUESTION

**Policy Specific to Foster Parents Claiming Foster Children as Dependents for Tax Purposes:** The Department does not give tax advice to foster parents. Generally, for example, foster parents qualify to claim foster children on their income taxes if the child resided in their home for more than 6 months of the calendar year. As noted above, this can only occur if foster parents have a signed release from the child's parent or guardian allowing them to share the child's social security number for the purpose of tax preparation.

The child's DHS caseworker may be asked by a foster parent for a foster child's social security number in order to claim them on their income taxes. The following is guidance in response to this request:

- **When the Department is the Guardian:** The Department may release the social security number to the foster parent when DHS is the guardian. However, the foster parent will need to get a letter from the Department to allow them to give that social security number to their tax preparer for income tax purposes only.
- **When the Department is Not the Guardian:** The foster child's parents retain their right to authorize or not authorize the release of their child's social security number to foster parents. Some of the foster child's parents may be claiming their child on their income taxes.

## 5 Lessons I've Learned From Parenting A Child With FASD

**Written By: Mike Berry (Confessions of an Adoptive Parent Blog)**

Ten years ago our oldest son was diagnosed with Alcohol-Related-Neurodevelopmental-Disorder (ARND), very similar to Fetal-Alcohol-Spectrum-Disorder (FASD), and our lives have been a rollercoaster ride ever since. Recently, however, we've begun learning new lessons about him, ourselves, and what we need to do differently.

Defeating. That's the word that comes to mind when I recount the past decade of parenting our son. He is on the fetal-alcohol spectrum. His brain suffered irreversible damage when he was in his birth mother's womb. The result has been violence, aggression, impulsions, even run-ins with police, the older he becomes.

The other day we were driving home from visiting in-laws when my son asked my wife, "If you could go back in time and change something, what would you change?" She thought for a moment and then answered, "I'd go back to when you were an infant and parent you differently." **[CONTINUE READING](#)**