



The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family

Karyn B. Purvis

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The adoption of a child is always a joyous moment in the life of a family. Some adoptions, though, present unique challenges. Welcoming these children into your family--and addressing their special needs--requires care, consideration, and compassion.

Written by two research psychologists specializing in adoption and attachment, "The Connected Child" will help you: Build bonds of affection and trust with your adopted child Effectively deal with any learning or behavioral disorders Discipline your child with love without making him or her feel threatened

The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family Details

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From Reader Review The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family for online ebook

Brittnee says

This book is pure GOLD! This book gives real strategies and insights into how to help bring healing, attachment and growth to our kiddos. Every foster parent and adoptive parent should read this book. It is invaluable. You don't have to be a foster or adoptive parent to read this book. If you're interested in learning more about the needs of kiddos from hard places and/or providing support for your family/friends who have adopted and how their kiddo's needs are best met and how attachment & healing are built then READ this book! :)

Bethany says

This was required reading for our adoption. I can see that it would be very helpful for parents who aren't familiar with therapy language or parenting a child with special needs, but I found that none of it was new information to me. I read The Out of Sync Child soon after Jakson was diagnosed with autism (and the psychologist suggested it) and thought that was much more helpful for dealing with sensory processing disorder (many similarities to attachment disorders). I did take a couple of notes and hope that they will be helpful in adjusting our family to our daughter and our daughter to our family.

Heather says

Wow - she got it. This is now a book I rave about to friends with traumatized kids. Purvis explains how a child's brain reacts and develops in the presence of trauma, but also describes approaches to "rewire" these kiddos. Brilliant in theory, but clear and simple in the writing.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

I probably read this too early, but my husband and I are talking about talking about looking into adoption (ie: very early/tentative/maybe stages) and when I asked in Litsy, a friend who adopted two kids not as babies said this book was everything. It's definitely not the parenting style I was raised in, and while I do know enough to know I don't want to raise a child the way I was raised, I don't necessarily know anything at all. This would be a book to revisit when dealing with behavioral issues, meltdowns, frustrations. The author uses a lot of scholarly research but writes simply, sometimes I almost felt it was too dumbed down but since she references everything I may go back to the source. This is a very time-intensive, patient, full-body type of parenting, and from what I'm understanding, an important approach for children who may be coming from a trauma background. It's interesting how much mindfulness is a part of this. But one suggested schedule has me a bit overwhelmed. I mean, how does this combine with working parents, I wonder. And do we really need *that* much eye contact? What about if a child has been abused, could they interpret eye contact as domineering? Phew, lots to revisit here.

Kendra says

This is a great resource book. Lots of helpful, practical ideas on how to help your adopted child in the bonding process. The only reason I didn't give it a "5" is that I had hoped (maybe it was an unfair expectation) that she would address, in more depth, the complex emotions that parents also bring into the relationship (ex. grief and loss). Maybe we are odd ducks in that we have already experienced the death of a child, although there are plenty of people who also adopt after infertility. I feel that the author does a great job of teaching us how to help our child bond to us, but I was hoping that she would speak in more depth to how parents might see *themselves* bonding to their child. (and how to help their children welcome a sister/brother into the mix too) Maybe I'll just need to find another book to deal with all those other issues....This is still an excellent resource!

Scooping it Up says

The framework of this book is parenting children who come from any kind of difficult past or transition, adoption, trauma, etc.

The surprising humble, and highly emotional pie I ate while reading it was this: Dr. Purvis is kind to suggest the kind of parenting it takes to successfully parent children from "hard places" is just that: mere kindness. The fact is, her parenting strategies would make every child a happier, more connected, more well adjusted child.

And if every parent practiced the kind of parenting she suggests, well, the world would be a better place. We'd all be much more effective, loving parents.

I highly recommend this book for ANYONE dealing with emotions or behavior in kids that your current strategies just aren't fixing.

The best example of how I was challenged was her suggestion that "sometimes to be an effective parent, you have to be willing to leave that full cart of groceries." Following through works, but whining, pleading, begging and bribing don't teach anything.

Love this, and will refer to it again and again.

Genni says

A lot of this may seem like common sense to a lot of parents (i.e. make eye contact with your children, play with them, enjoy them, etc), but there is also a wealth of really fantastic insight and tips for dealing with children from hard places. I wish they would put out another book dealing specifically with adopting older children since there is such a need there. Anyway, highly recommended if you have adopted or are thinking about it as a possibility.

Zac Chase says

After the generally dark tone of Adopting the Hurt Child, this book was exactly what I was needed. It kept saying, "Yes, this will be tough," and "Yes, you'll be fine," and "Yes, your child will be precious."

All of that wrapped with, you're going to want to think about and try these things.

Melissa Lewis says

This was a very informative and insightful book. While it was great for me to read as an adoptive mother preparing to adopt a toddler, I think it is a great parenting book for others as well. It provides solid reasons why traumatized children act out in different ways and gives very practical parenting advice on how to gently, but firmly help them deal with their issues. Definitely a must-read for adoptive parents.

Carrie says

Should be required reading for adoptive parents. However, there were many things I highlighted that will aid me in being a better mom to my biological children as well.

Noteworthy quotes:

- 1- Too often parents and experts look at behavioral disorders as if they existed separate from sensory impairments, separate from attention difficulties, separate from childhood deprivation, neurological damage, attachment disorders, post traumatic stress; and so on. You should take a more holistic approach because we know from a wealth of scientific research that a baby's neurological, physical, behavioral, and relational skills all develop and emerge together. An infant needs more than just food and water and a roof over his or her head to grow; he or she needs close physical human contact and social interactions to develop optimally.
- 2- Time-outs are a common form of discipline, but this strategy backfires with a special needs child, esp. one who has been adopted or who has attachment difficulties. Isolating that child just reinforces her deeply ingrained experience that she can only rely on herself and that she is alone against the world.
- 3- The goal is for a child to interrupt his or her own misbehavior at the point of intention, instead of parents interrupting a misbehavior at the point of action.

Catie says

Great for ANY parent or parent-to-be, regardless if you are adopting!

As future adopting parents with no kids yet, we are so encouraged and thankful for this book. It provides much insight and helpful resources for what potential difficult situations as you learn to parent - not just for adopted kids but ANY kids you may parent (including biological). This book helps you see and learn how to balance correction and nurturing so your child can learn to be respectful and loved/loving!

Leia says

A must read for parents of kids from hard places, but beneficial to ALL parents.

Lisa says

This is BY FAR the most helpful book I've read on attachment, bonding and helping a traumatized child learn to feel safe and yet not allow them to overly control the life of your family due to their very real struggles and issues. Written by two PhD's at Texas Christian University, they provide common-sense understanding of what triggers fear and other struggles in traumatized children while offering very helpful and HOPEFUL strategies for compassionate, loving, strong and effective parenting to help them learn to feel secure and overcome their struggles. After reading another book on this subject last week from start to finish in one late-night session that gave me very little hope, very few practical ideas and created a great deal of anxiety and fear of the future, this book has been a great comfort.

I will be giving this book as a gift to every new adoptive parent I know. Can't wait to finish it, probably this weekend. I stayed up until 3:30am reading it last night...

Kami says

I read this book because I have an adopted daughter that I am struggling to connect with. **I thought it was exceptional.** There were several chapters applicable only to adopted and foster children, however the rest of it I would recommend to any parent.

Here's a few of the gems I found personally beneficial:

1)A lot of my daughter's behaviors that drive me insane aren't her personality--it's a result of where she began and are coping/survival mechanisms. I actually was surprised at how many behaviors they listed that my daughter does, almost word for word. It makes it easier to be compassionate (another thing they stress).

2) I really liked Ch. 5--"Teaching Life Values." It was great because it gave clear, usable strategies (backed up with research)that are things I could instantly implement.

3) Ditto that with Ch. 6--"You Are the Boss." I've already have been trying a lot of their recommended corrective approaches with my daughter. What surprised me at first, is that even though I stay calmer, she gets more mad. Especially when I make her do "re-dos." It does make sense though. Before I would just yell at her and then we'd move on, now it's much more involved and requires her to respond to me and practice, and takes way more of her time and energy. However, I have high hopes that it will help. I know yelling won't help a thing.

4) I read Ch. 7--"Dealing with Defiance" out loud to my husband. Definitely things we plan on using there.

5)I also thought it was useful that they directed two chapters in particular to the parents. They gave

overviews of different parenting styles(ie permissive, authoritative, or authoritarian)--I'm definitely authoritarian and avoidant. Yeah, I need to work on that. It just gave perspective on how parents have issues to work on too.

Kacie Woodmansee says

I thought most of the advice in this book was excellent. While geared towards foster/adopted children from hard places, a majority of the information could be applied towards all children. Knowing the history and science behind certain behaviors is always helpful for understanding where kids are coming from. The main issue I had with the book is the main issue I have with a lot of the reviews of the book. It's okay to not have the whole parenting thing figured out. You shouldn't feel shame if you need to be reminded of some of the truths in this book or if you've never heard them. While, yes, some of the concepts are Parenting 101, nobody is a perfect parent and we all need to be reminded of those basics every now and then. So don't feel bad if you read a review that says they've heard all this before. That doesn't mean it won't be helpful to you and your family. And don't feel bad if you read this book and realize you struggle with a lot of the concepts. I wish the book emphasized having grace for yourself as a parent. You're not going to always get it right. The three steps forward and one step back illustration used in the book should be applied to parents as well. Use this book as a tool for some of those steps forward and forgive yourself (and ask forgiveness from your children) when you take that step back.
